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Gold discovery sets off a Gold Rush of theories over who left the loot behind.

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Tony-winning Idina Menzel is enjoying massive success with "Let It Go."

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DUE TO LANGUAGE OF SAIPAN CASINO BILL

'Tax rebate could be scrapped'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Private citizens, elected officials, and businesses weighed in yesterday on what they describe as a hastily-passed bill allowing casino gaming on Saipan, including scrapping the tax rebate for everyone in the CNMI except for the exclusive Saipan casino license holder. Whether it was plain oversight or not, community members are asking Gov. Eloy S. Inos to carefully consider this and other concerns in deciding the bill's fate.

The bill, which has yet to be transmitted by the House of Representatives to

the governor's office as of yesterday afternoon

See TAX on Page 4

» Chamber of Commerce, citizens, officials raise more questions
» Tinian Dynasty pursues expansion plan

POPULAR INITIATIVE DRIVE on Saipan casino to be launched

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A new foundation pushing for an integrated resort and tourism development in the CNMI is launching as early as today a petition to get as many as 2,600 signatures to be able to put in the November ballot the question of whether Saipan voters want casino gaming on Saipan. This comes

seven years since islands voters rejected the same question for the second time in 2007.

The group is turning to a popular initiative, within days of the Senate's passage of a Saipan casino bill from the House. For at least four years, the Senate has been rejecting Saipan casino bills from the House.

The Marianas Economic Research and Development Foundation, in a See POPULAR on Page 4

Demapan found NOT GUILTY

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A Superior Court jury found Bradley Demapan not guilty yesterday of charges that he raped a female tourist in the bushes north of the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

The six jurors, including a retired police officer, reached a unanimous verdict finding Demapan not guilty of sexual assault in the first degree.

The 26-year-old Demapan burst into tears, exclaimed "Thank you Lord!", clenched his fists in the air, and then tightly hugged his lawyer, Stephen Pixley, after hearing the court staff read the verdict at 4:30pm.

The jurors began their deliberations Wednesday afternoon and resumed yesterday morning.

Demapan's parents and family members were all in tears. Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), brother of the defen-

See DEMAPAN on Page 4

A weeping Bradley Demapan hugs his brother Bart Demapan as their mother looks on shortly after Bradley was acquitted yesterday of all charges in connection with the alleged rape of a Korean tourist last July 26 in the bushes north of the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

PSS to phase out substitute teachers. PAGE 5

NMC to enforce rankings to resolve wage disparity. PAGE 19



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The Choice is Clear

RT anchor, former Saipan reporter, quits on air over Putin 'whitewash'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

residents near and far were posting and reposting Wahl's on-air resignation and interviews.

As the CNMI remains in wait-and-see mode on the Ukraine-Russia crisis' impact, if any, on the U.S. visa waiver program for CNMI-bound Russian tourists comes another story miles away with connection to the islands. A Washington, D.C. bureau anchor with U.S. network "Russia Today," Liz Wahl, a former KSPN 2 reporter on Saipan, quit on the air Wednesday afternoon, saying the Kremlin-funded television network "whitewashes" the actions of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Within minutes and hours of Wahl's dramatic resignation, she started getting interviews with national and international media outlets including CNN.

"Indeed as a reporter on this network I face many moral and ethical challenges," Wahl said on Russia Today. "That is why personally I cannot be part of [a] network funded by the Russian government that whitewashes the actions of Putin. I'm proud to be an American and believe in disseminating the truth. And that is why after this newscast I am resigning."

Wahl worked as a reporter for Saipan-based KSPN 2 from 2009 to August 2011, and later worked for Russia Today.

Bob Coldeen, news director for KSPN 2, said Wahl is "very professional," "very opinionated" and "very dependable."

"She took her job very seriously. I'm not surprised she would do that," Coldeen said, referring to Wahl's resignation on air.

Coldeen said he saw some of Wahl's work with Russia Today, and found them to be "straight" and not slanted.

"I wish her nothing but the best," Coldeen said.

Even on social media, CNMI

Wahl began her televised resignation by referencing co-worker Abby Martin, who made headlines by denouncing Russian intervention in Ukraine earlier this week.

Within hours, Wahl told CNN's Anderson Cooper, "What's clear is what's happening right now amid this crisis is that RT is not about the truth. It's about promoting a Putinist agenda. And I can tell you first-hand, it's also about bashing America."

Meanwhile, the Inos administration, along with the Marianas Visitors Authority, is "closely monitoring" the Ukraine-Russia crisis, which would have a negative impact on CNMI tourism if the United States imposes economic and travel restrictions against Russia.

At stake is the CNMI's estimated \$130 million annual economic revenue from Russian tourists if the U.S. imposes travel restrictions against Russia.

But MVA managing director Perry Tenorio said flights from East Russia to the CNMI "continue as scheduled" and that arrivals from Russia to the Commonwealth "remain extremely strong."

The CNMI's tourism agency, nevertheless, is "monitoring the evolving crisis in the Ukraine with great concern," he said.

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Govt scales back Tinian and Rota landfill projects

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After years of planning and pushing for the construction of sanitary landfills on Tinian and Rota, the government has decided to scale back both projects and they are now in danger of being cancelled, according to Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Frank M. Rabauliman.

He said that inspectors from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are scheduled to arrive in the Commonwealth in two weeks' time to meet with those in charge of the landfill projects.

"The last time I checked with the CIP [Capital Improvement Project] Office, I was given the information that they are scaling back these projects. That's my understanding now," Rabauliman said.

It will be recalled that some years back, the legislative delegations of the two islands set aside funding for these projects, to be sourced from the untouched CIP monies for each island and some portion of 702 monies.

The CNMI government in February 2010 even solicited bids for the architectural and engineering design of the long-awaited Tinian sanitary landfill,

which had some \$5.4 million in available federal and local funding then. This amount would cover the planning and actual construction of the landfill and the transfer station.

Tinian has an open dump, which is the subject of health and environmental concerns by local and federal agencies. The dump is located southwest of Tinian and near the airport.

Rabauliman said the Tinian project was a bit complicated because construction of the new landfill was being eyed behind the fence of a land that was leased by the U.S. military, which earlier asserted that they may need to close access to the area in the event of trainings. This would require Tinian to build a transfer station that would be able to accommodate waste for a longer period of time.

For this landfill project alone, close to \$800,000 has already been spent to develop an environmental impact assessment.

For the Rota landfill project, an environmental impact study was planned and commissioned to determine the viability of having a fully operational sanitary landfill. The then-Fitial administration allocated \$1.6 million in CIP monies for the construction of a landfill on Rota.

Judge Manglona sanctions Quichocho for late filing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona sanctioned yesterday attorney Ramon K. Quichocho for his late filing on behalf of a client who sued several businesses for allegedly having facilities that are not accessible to persons with disabilities.

Manglona told Quichocho that he violated Model Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.3, which relates to the duty of diligence, when he neglected to file his client William A. Tracy's opposition to a motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

The judge ordered Quichocho to pay for their time all four lawyers—Mark Scoggins, Joshua Berger, Colin Thompson, and Robert Torres—in preparing for the motion to dismiss. All four appeared in court yesterday morning.

Manglona required Quichocho to pay these costs personally and that he not charge his client, Tracy, for yesterday's proceeding or costs incurred by defendants.

The judge denied Quichocho's request that Berger not be included in the court's sanction order.

Manglona accepted Quichocho's filing of an opposition to dismiss, on the condition that he pay for the sanction as ordered. Manglona ordered the de-

Rabauliman believes that the decision to scale back the projects was primarily due to the low customer base on both islands.

"Perhaps the customer base on both islands may not be enough to sustain a permitted fully operational landfill like what we have on Saipan," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Saipan landfill was commissioned and designed based on a 70,000 population back then.

'Administrative orders in 2 islands still in effect'

The defunct Division of Environmental Quality, then headed by Rabauliman, issued in 2010 administrative orders to all three landfills on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Of these orders, Rabauliman said the ones for Tinian and Rota remain in effect and will

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continue to take effect until both satisfy the concerns of the agency and the EPA.

Rabauliman said the Saipan landfill, which was once slapped by a \$15,000 fine for violating environmental standards, was able to rectify the problems uncovered by inspectors, including concern over defective and dilapidated pumps.

Both Tinian and Rota operate "open dumps"—without cover and segregation as among the environmental requirements.

Rabauliman described the "still in effect" citation for both open dumps as pretty much based on operational stuff and not necessarily on huge capital investment. He cited as an example the lack of some equipment such as bulldozers.

With the landfill projects now scaled back, Rabauliman said the CIP office will

aid both islands in procuring these operational stuff instead of building new dumpsites or transfer stations.

"Tinian and Rota, I believe, are addressing at present some of those compliance issues that do not require a lot of capital. But until all requirements are satisfied, the administrative orders will remain in effect," he said.

Despite the existence of administrative orders, the bureau has yet to penalize both islands.

Updates

When asked for comments yesterday, press secretary Angel Demapan said he was informed

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by the CIP office that the design for the Tinian landfill has been completed.

Meantime, the design for the Rota landfill was recently awarded to EA Science Engineering, and the topographic and property surveys are now complete.

"This project will comply with the Division of Environmental Quality's Solid Waste Guidelines for small jurisdictions generating 15 tons/day of trash. It does not require a subtitle D design or the liner system. The progress of the design is 22 percent as of today. The expected completion date is sometime in June 2014," added Demapan

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POPULAR*From Page 1*

news briefing yesterday, said they were just as surprised as everyone else about the casino bill's rapid passage in the House and Senate without public hearing and further review by lawmakers themselves.

Isidoro T. Cabrera, president and board member of the foundation, said they will start circulating the petition drive as early as today or this weekend to be able to involve the public in the decision-making process related to Saipan casino gaming.

"We are running out of time," Cabrera said, referring to the estimated 2,600 signatures needed

to place the Saipan casino question on the ballot in November.

As of March 4, Saipan registered voters numbered 12,861, based on the Commonwealth Election Commission website.

The foundation would need the signatures of at least 20 percent—or 2,572—of the registered Saipan voters and have them verified and certified by the Office of the Attorney General.

Lawmakers who voted against the Saipan casino bill early this week said that asking Saipan voters directly whether they want casino gaming on the island should be the way to go, instead of what they described as a rushed passage of a bill allowing an exclusive casino li-

cense holder for up to 80 years.

The casino bill is now on its way to Gov. Eloy S. Inos for action.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when sought for comment yesterday, said different approaches would come down to timing and how soon revenues will be realized.

"Obviously, there is a process for any type of popular initiative to be placed on the ballot. The difference between that route and the route of legislation would come down to timing and realization of revenues. Retirees want their pension cuts restored sooner rather than later. Our people want a stronger and better economy sooner rather than later," De-

mapan said.

Antonio Cabrera, foundation secretary and board member, said people should be asked not only whether they want a casino on Saipan but also how and where the "dedicated funds" should be used, along with the types of casino operations, how gambling addiction and related social problems will be addressed, and the overall impact on CNMI tourism and economy.

Cabrera said the foundation want revenue from an integrated resort and tourism development, including casino, to be dedicated to the retirement settlement trust fund, medical or health care, beautification, economic development, social

programs to address gambling and related problems, law enforcement agencies, and educational institution.

The other foundation board members are Michael M. Ogo, Vic Cepeda, and John Gurley.

Russell S. Schow, the foundation's executive director, said the foundation's integrated resort and tourism development approach was inspired by Singapore, which provides different types of tourist amenities, attractions and lodgings.

He said Singapore acquired significant investors to be able to provide an integrated resort and in order to do this on Saipan, the island must also need to legalize casinos as did

Singapore in 2006.

Schow said the foundation has been communicating with major casino operators for guidance. He said the foundation wants to hear from Saipan people. They encourage people to send them an email at info@merdf.org.

The foundation said the four most viable areas of economic contributions are agriculture, aquaculture, pelagic fisheries, and tourism—the latter being the most valuable.

The last time a popular initiative drive for Saipan casino was initiated was in 2012, but the organizers failed to get the requisite number of signatures to place the question on the ballot.

DEMAPAN*From Page 1*

dant, joined the family in the courtroom.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who decided on the misdemeanor charges, also found Demapan not guilty of assault and battery. On Wednesday, Camacho acquitted Demapan of disturbing the peace.

Demapan cried again, clenched his fists in the air, and hugged Pixley, after hearing Camacho's decision.

Demapan, who was still crying uncontrollably, told reporters outside the courtroom after the hearing that everything that happened was consensual.

"I did not lie. I just told the truth. Thank you God," said Demapan.

Pixley said they're very happy with the verdict in this "very emotional case."

"It's a tough case. Very difficult," Pixley said.

Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda, who prosecuted the case, referred reporters to their public information officer for comment.

In acquitting Demapan of assault and battery, Camacho said he found the defendant's three statements consistent and credible, in contrast to the testimony of the alleged victim and her female companion.

Camacho said that based on the testimonies of the defendant

and others, the alleged victim was awake and aware during sexual intercourse.

He said that when people came upon Demapan and the woman, she shielded her face and her naked body using her hands. At no time did she scream, cry out, or express that the sex was non-consensual to her friend or the tour guide, Camacho added.

He gave credit to the testimony of a PIC security guard who approached the location of Demapan and the alleged victim, and heard sexual "moaning sounds."

Camacho said that, based on the testimonies of all the witnesses, including the alleged victim and her friend, the

two along with Demapan and another male PIC employee agreed to meet at 10:30pm on July 25, 2013.

At the meeting place at PIC, the four drank alcoholic beverages, exchanged dirty jokes, sang, and danced. At some point, the friend of the alleged victim went to the restroom, accompanied by Demapan's co-worker.

Demapan's co-worker was alerted by a security guard that his wife was in the lobby so he hid in the tall grass, afraid that he will be caught partying with "two hot chicks." The PIC worker then went home.

When the alleged victim's companion went out of the restroom, she panicked, think-

ing that the two men took her friend somewhere. Unknown to her, her companion and Demapan decided to take a romantic stroll on the beach and proceeded to have sex in a secluded area.

The alleged victim's companion, a tour guide, and a security guard searched for the two and found them at a beachside north of PIC.

The friend started scolding the alleged victim, who then began crying. The friend demanded that Demapan be arrested by the police, who at the time responded.

After the initial interview at the Office of the Attorney General, the alleged victim and her companion met a pri-

vate lawyer.

Camacho said the alleged victim and her companion changed their stories several times, which undermined their credibility.

Camacho said the alleged victim openly lied under oath about hiring a private lawyer and that she is in the process of suing PIC, further undermining her credibility.

"There was no reason she had to lie. It is her right to hire an attorney. The issue is that she lied about it," the judge pointed out.

Attorney Joshua Berger testified that, on behalf of the alleged victim, he wrote a letter to PIC, demanding \$300,000.

The trial began on Monday.

TAX*From Page 1*

ternoon, leaves out the tax relief provision specific to the tiered rebate offset amount.

Under current law, for example, taxpayers with \$20,000 or less in rebate base gets a rebate of 90 percent of the base amount.

"The bill is basically doing away with the tax rebate, the way the language of the bill is posted...It is not fair that every taxpayer in the CNMI won't get a rebate anymore, only the casino license holder. It may be an oversight but if it is signed in its present form, it leaves out the language of the tiered rebate," Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Sablan said the tax rebate is "one of the last real investment tools to attract investors" in the CNMI.

The 35-page casino bill provides rebate offset amount of 100 percent of the gross gaming revenue to the exclusive casino gaming licensee.

Sablan said the Chamber is not opposed to giving incentives to investors, but hopes that it will be done in a manner that is fair to everyone.

A rebate is for tax properly paid and is subsequently returned to the taxpayer under a rebate provision.

Press secretary Angel De-

mapan, when sought for comment, said the administration does not want to scrap the tax rebate program.

"No, if this is what is written in the bill, that would be a grave concern for the administration," he said.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the CNMI with over 150 members, had yet to poll its members about the latest Saipan casino bill when the bill passed late Monday afternoon in the House and early Tuesday night at the Senate.

"The passage happened so quickly; we didn't have time to poll the members yet on this specific bill," Sablan added.

Tinian Dynasty

Tom Liu, general manager of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, the only operating casino in the CNMI, said yesterday they are still reviewing the Saipan casino bill and its possible consequence on the Tinian Dynasty operation.

Despite the surprising passage of the bill at the Senate, Mega Stars Overseas Ltd. will still pursue its expansion plans for Tinian Dynasty.

"Mega Stars is still very much [intent on] continuing with their expansion and development plan for Tinian Dynasty," Liu said, adding that Dynasty does not want investors to lose confidence as a result of the casino bill.

Hotel renovation at Tinian

Dynasty is ongoing, with 28 rooms so far completed. Liu said Tinian Dynasty will also have its March Baccarat Tournament this weekend with 200 entries, the largest turnout in the past 10 years.

Two of three Tinian senators voted yes to the Saipan casino bill: Sens. Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian) and Joaquin Borja (Ind-Tinian).

'Deliberate or not?'

Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), one of the four senators who voted "no" to the bill on Tuesday night, asked the same thing yesterday: "Did they just wipe out the rebate in the Commonwealth?"

Manglona and Sablan's concerns were echoed by ordinary taxpayers who look forward to their rebates every year.

"If the intention is not to remove the rebate, the bill could have indicated that that section is also unchanged just like what it did with the other provisions. Had we had ample time to review this bill before it was put to a vote, we could have clarified this matter," Manglona said.

Another section of the bill that raises concern is the tax abatement or tax incentive Qualifying Certificate program.

The bill says the Investment Incentive Act of 2000 or Public Law 12-32, which is the QC program "shall not be applicable to the casino, and shall not be eligible for a

qualifying certificate."

"That sentence is clear. The casino is not qualified for a QC. But if you read further, the bill was written in such a way that basically says all the other projects related to the casino, including the hotel, are qualified for QC," Manglona said.

The bill requires the exclusive casino license holder to invest a minimum of \$2 billion inclusive of the casino and a new hotel with at least 2,000 rooms.

The casino bill states in part, "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the casino is part of a larger business or project for which a qualifying certificate is issued under such act, no tax on or derived from the operation or revenue of such casino, including but not limited to concession food and beverage sales within a casino shall be abated or rebated by virtue of such certificate."

But it does not state that the larger business of which the casino is part of is prohibited from availing of the QC program, Manglona said.

Another businessman said yesterday that signing the bill into law gives a "sweetheart deal" for the would-be exclusive casino license holder.

Manglona and Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan), also among the senators that voted "no" to the bill, previously raised concerns on other provisions that they deem flawed and have chilling effects on

other businesses such as poker parlors, electronic gaming, and video lottery.

They also cited a losing proposition for the CNMI if it would only require a \$15-million-a-year license fee payment from the minimum \$2 billion investor in a span of 40 years or 80 years. The senators said the bill's enactment could result in \$10 million or more income lost from poker machines and require general fund appropriation for a commission's annual operations after the first year.

House Bill 18-179, House Draft 4 is authored by House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), with Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) as co-sponsor.

Demapan and the governor, along with other lawmakers, met earlier on different occasions with a Hong Kong-based investor that is eyeing "close to \$3 billion" tourism investments on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, inclusive of "2,000 hotel rooms," villas, and a private medical center.

The casino bill was "reviewed for purposes of introduction only" by House legal counsel John F. Cool, who said yesterday that he didn't have a chance to review the bill thoroughly before it was voted on by the House. He himself conceded that the bill could use a thorough review. Generally, bills are "reviewed for legal sufficiency" by House counsels.

This is the first time in at

least four years that the Senate passed a Saipan casino bill from the House. Saipan voters twice rejected a casino legislative initiative, the last one in 2007.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), who used to oppose casino legislation and preferred a ballot initiative, said that "times have changed" so he voted to pass the casino bill. He was referring to the 25 percent cut in retirees' pension, the annual payment into the retirement settlement trust fund, the higher health insurance premium and other government obligations.

The administration said the governor would thoroughly review the bill, and there is no guarantee that the bill will be automatically signed into law.

House members and senators who voted against the bill asked for public hearings on the bill and more time for the members to review it before voting on it. But pro-casino lawmakers said a casino bill is not a new concept and public hearings were held on previous bills.

Under the latest bill, the investor must pay a nonrefundable \$1 million application fee and partial \$30 million license fee payment "within 15 days" of the bill's signing into law. These specific provisions also led some lawmakers to believe that the bill is tailored for a specific investor, who has long prepared at least \$31 million to have an exclusive casino license on Saipan.

PSS to phase out substitute teachers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Substitute teachers in pub-

lic schools may have to look for jobs elsewhere following disclosure that the Public School System is planning to

phase them out starting next school year.

PSS finance director Derek Sasamoto disclosed this to *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the budget proposal for fiscal year 2015 indicates the system's goal of hiring more full-time classroom teachers. PSS specifically requests to restore 117 positions, 50 of which are classroom teachers.

A substitute teacher is hired on an on-call basis and is usually given a short-term contract depending on the need. They are paid \$100 per day if they possess a bachelor's degree, while associate degree holders receive \$60 per day.

Regular classroom teachers' salaries are determined by the system's compensation

plan and are required to have higher credentials, including having a degree, certifications, years of experience, and Praxis 1 and 2 tests, among other requirements.

Sasamoto said that PSS has been tapping the services of substitutes for many years now due to the limited funding allocated for public schools.

Saipan Tribune learned that the number of substitutes at PSS varies but there were 39 as of last week.

"We've requested additional funding for personnel cost because we want to eliminate substitutes. It is PSS' goal to have full-time classroom teachers 100 percent," said Sasamoto.

Despite the lower cost of hiring substitutes, Sasamoto

believes in the cost-benefit of filling all positions with full-time teachers.

"The cost-benefit is there: you meet the HQT requirement and curriculum and instruction are assured of higher quality and that's worth the investment," he said.

"I am not saying that substitutes are of less quality, but just the fact that we have qualifications and requirements set... this will bring consistency to the system in fully meeting the 'highly qualified teachers' mandate [of the U.S. Department of Education]," he added.

Meantime, Sasamoto assured that the PSS compensation policy is being strictly enforced.

"I process those things regularly and I can assure you, ev-

erything is based on the compensation plan," he said.

PSS has compensation packages for teachers, counselors, and administrators, among other employees.

Records show that 33 school administrators—mainly principals and vice principals—receive salaries that range from \$40,000 to \$60,000 per annum depending on their credentials. Many administrators earn an average of \$52,125.87.

PSS' 21 school counselors receive salaries that range from \$30,976 to \$47,001 per annum. The average salary of counselors, PSS disclosed, is \$35,933 per annum.

The compensation package of related service providers ranges from \$29,906 to \$47,001. PSS has 12 employees classified as related service providers, many of whom earn an average of \$44,281 per annum.

WASC Senior Commission sets three-day visit to NMC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A team from the Senior College and University Commission has informed the Northern Marianas College that it will soon be coming to inspect the institution and verify the report it recently turned in.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that the senior commission's visit is set for three days on April 30 to May 2 this year.



Hart

Hart is optimistic of a favorable response from the senior commission and looks forward to the visit of its team.

The senior commission provides an initial six to seven years of accreditation to its members and up to 10 years when reaffirmed.

Hart said the senior commission's decision whether to accept NMC or not will be known after the accrediting body's assembly in June this year.

ACCJC and the Senior College

and University Commission are both components of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, or WASC. Since 2001, NMC has been accredited by these two commission bodies for its two-year programs and for its lone baccalaureate degree.

Under ACCJC policy, its member institution could only offer one four-year degree program. Under the senior commission, the college could offer as many four-year degree courses it wishes while maintaining its associate degree programs.

Hart said that NMC plans to endorse the four-year business degree program to the Board of Regents next month.

It was learned that the college formally submitted its application to become a member of the senior commission on March 1. Along with the petition is the college's self-study report, which NMC recently finished, Hart said.

The college wants to shift its accreditation from the Accrediting Commission on Junior Community College to the Senior College and University Commission following its plan to offer another four-year degree program in the fall 2014 semester.

NMC currently has only one four-year degree, its School of Education. The college wants to offer a four-year degree in business by the fall semester.

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PRIVATE AUDIENCE
Rita C. Sablan, spouse of David M. Sablan Sr., has a private and special moment with His Holiness Pope Francis in Rome on March 3, 2014. Although Sablan made the lengthy travel despite her arthritis, she felt blessed and was in tears for having been privileged to meet His Holiness.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Quichocho witness finds Kim 'very sophisticated'

»**Witness testifies she did not see bruises on Kim's wrists hours after alleged Guam rape**

bruises on Kim's wrist, hours after the alleged first rape occurred.

Barbara Iglesias testified in federal court on Wednesday that she first met Kim at King's Restaurant in Guam on Nov. 2, 2008. Iglesias said she and her aunt had breakfast with Quichocho and Kim at that restaurant.

She said she was surprised to see Kim as she was expecting Quichocho's wife, Frances, to be there.

Iglesias said that Quichocho, who is related to her fiancée, introduced her to Kim, who she later found out from her aunt was Quichocho's client.

"She's very pleasant. She's pretty, cute, very sophisticated," she said.

When asked by Quichocho's counsel, Michael Dotts, if she noticed anything odd about Kim during their 45-minute-to-an-hour breakfast, Iglesias replied there was none.

Iglesias stated that she did not notice any bruises on Kim's wrists and that she did not observe signs of crying like puffy eyes in Kim's.

Kim earlier testified that Quichocho raped her inside the room they shared at Hyatt Hotel in Guam on Nov. 1, 2008. She alleged that as a result, she suffered bruises on her wrists. She also testified that after the incident she and Quichocho had breakfast with the latter's aunt and another person.

Kim said the second rape was in Quichocho's apartment unit in San Jose, Saipan, on Dec. 10, 2008. Iglesias said she found out only about the rape allegations on the news about Kim's lawsuit.

Upon questioning by attorney Robert T. Torres, counsel for Kim, Iglesias agreed that at the time, she never saw Kim cry and that she was not aware that Kim was Quichocho's client and that a psychiatrist saw her

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JKPL asks for \$593K for FY 2015

The Joeten Kiyu Public Library wants a bigger slice of the government spending pie with a budget request of \$593,406 for fiscal year 2015, some \$160,000 more than the \$432,528 it got in the previous fiscal year.

In the spending plan it submitted to Gov. Eloy S. Inos, JKPL officials point out that the library continues to fulfill its vital role of serving the needs of about 50,000 residents, yet continues to get a meager share of the government's yearly budget.

With little money for programs, supplies, and resources, the library is fortunate to continued to receive grants to augment local resources and community volunteers that help the library in many ways, it said.

For fiscal year 2015, the library wants to boost its 10 staff to 11, with the hiring of a librarian aide. It wants a personnel budget of \$297,816, up a bit from the \$269,633 it got in fiscal year 2014.

For operations, the library is seeking \$295,590, which will cover office expenses, travel, repairs, training of staff, utilities, and supplies.

Library officials noted that fiscal year 2015's budget for operations is a noticeable reduction compared to the previous fiscal year, due to cost-cutting measures in utilities and bare operational necessities.

Cost-saving measures

One of the major highlights of the budget is the cost-savings that JKPL has incurred.

"On behalf of the CNMI Library Council and the hard-working staff of the libraries on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, I would like to emphasize that the cost of annual cost-savings in terms of quantifiable amount is about \$10,000 to \$100,000 annually...We used to spend \$12,000 to \$15,000 in a month, now we are spending \$9,000 to \$10,000 in a month. That's a lot of savings," said JKPL executive director John Oliver Gonzales.

He said a federally subsidized discounted funding for E-rate discounts for telecommuni-

cations amount to \$35,000 annually and saves the CNMI government 90 percent.

The grant administered by Universal Services Administrative Co. for all public libraries for annual telecommunications costs about \$40,000, but JKPL only pays 10 percent of it.

Another cost-saving measure is yard cleaning and maintenance, which used to cost \$12,000 annually. Due to volunteer groups and organizations, this saves the CNMI government 100 percent.

While an air-conditioning retrofit for all three 24-ton units amounted to \$70,000, it however has saved the library 30 percent in monthly utilities.

Federal grants also helped JKPL strengthen and replace its roof at a cost of \$200,000. That has resulted in the library saving some 30 percent in utilities each month.

This is reflected in the library's budget request for utilities. In fiscal year 2014, JKPL spent \$180,000 on utilities. For the new fiscal year, it is asking for only \$120,000.

The library also asks for \$20,000 to buy new books and materials to replace its outdated basic reference research materials. The proposed amount will be distributed among the islands' three public libraries: \$15,000 for JKPL; \$2,500 for the Tinian Municipal Public Library; and \$2,500 for the Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library on Rota.

JKPL also is renewing its contact with McNaughton Book Service, which provides the library with new popular book titles at a greatly discounted rate. The book service provides the library with 30 books per month and is highly sought by the community.

"Acquisition of other popular educational resources in response to patron needs is critical in order to sustain, if not increase, patron traffic to our libraries," the budget plan states.

The two libraries on Rota and Tinian also need to pro-

Tourist dies from drowning in Guam

GUAM (Pacific News Center)—A 74-year-old Japanese tourist who was pulled unconscious from Tumon Bay on Tuesday afternoon died early yesterday morning at the Guam Memorial Hospital.

GMH Nursing supervisor Bill Toves said the woman was pronounced dead at 4:30am.

She was pulled from the water behind the Reef Hotel about 3:30pm on Tuesday. She was rushed to GMH with medics performing CPR on her en-

cure equipment such as copiers, vehicles, and anti-theft security systems.

"We trust you will support us convince our federal grantors that our request for local appropriations are well within the required maintenance-of-effort threshold to sustain community literacy as essential educational community anchor institutions in order to maintain and expand our on-site and outreach library services in all our public library branches NMI-wide," said Gonzales and Mark Rabauliman, chairman of the CNMI Library Council, in their message to the governor. (*Jayson Camacho*)

FIVB VCP Refereeing for Indoor Volleyball FREE Development Training Course

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VCP Refereeing Course is being hosted by the NMI Volleyball Association in collaboration with the FIVB and is being conducted by Mr Avelino Azevedo of Portugal, a former FIVB international beach volleyball referee and delegate

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Summer Pre-law Program in radio program



NMI Judiciary Summer Pre-law Program coordinator and law clerk Nicole M. Torres, left, and law clerk Claire Kelleher-Smith, right, speak to Criminal Justice majors at Northern Marianas College and invite them to apply to the Judiciary Summer Pre-law Program.

On March 9, 2014, NMI Judiciary Summer Pre-law Program coordinator and law clerk Nicole M. Torres, along with Lillian A. Tenorio and Cinta M. Kaipat, 1994 program alumnae, will be featured in the radio program "Your Humanities Half-Hour" to discuss the Summer Pre-law Program's history, benefits, and application re-

quirements. Tenorio and Kaipat will describe their personal experiences in the 1994 program and legal careers that followed. Tune in to Power 99 at 2pm to hear more.

The program will be held at the Guma' Hustisia in Suape from June 23, 2014, to July 11, 2014. The program will introduce participants to legal study; will prepare par-

ticipants for the law school admissions process; and will connect participants to attorney-mentors within the CNMI legal community.

Emeritus professor Robert J. Desiderio of the University of New Mexico School of Law and professor Rose Cuison Villazor of the University of California at Davis School of Law will teach

courses in contracts and property. Participants will have the opportunity to present oral arguments before a panel of judges, and attend workshops on the law school admissions process and Law School Admission Test.

The program is open to individuals who are pursuing or have obtained undergraduate or graduate degrees.

Those interested are encouraged to apply by the priority deadline, April 30, 2014, as space is limited. Applications are available at <http://www.justice.gov.mp/prelaw.aspx> and at the office of the Clerk of Court at the Guma' Hustisia. For more information, contact Torres at 236-9800 or nmiprelaw@gmail.com. (NMI Judiciary)



March 7, 2006

'Work hour cuts a go for government employees'

Government employees are urged to brace for hard times as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has decided to proceed with implementing a work hour reduction. The 32-hour work-week would affect all government employees who earn over \$20,000 a year and who are not working at the five exempted agencies: the Department of Public Health, Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, Public School System, and he said.

the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the work hour reduction would become effective "as soon as possible." The Financial Relief Task Force was now drafting a specific plan to implement the eight-hour cut,

for approval of a TA [travel authorization]. It's not necessary. We're autonomous," said MVA board member JM Guerrero in a meeting early last week. In a Jan. 16, 2006, memorandum to department heads, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has prohibited all government departments and activities from using public funds for travels. If travels are deemed extremely important, the governor required concerned offices to seek approval from him.

March 7, 2007

'DOI statements sanctioned by White House'

The Marianas Visitors Authority has approved a travel authorization for one of its personnel to Chuuk without the consent of the Executive Branch. "I don't think we have to take that long

Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs deputy assistant secretary David B. Cohen maintained yesterday that his recent testimony to the U.S. Senate about

CNMI immigration was all cleared by the White House. "The written statement that I submitted for the February 8 hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was thoroughly cleared by the Administration, including the White House," said Cohen in an email message yesterday. This came as White House Advisory Commission on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders chairman Rudy Paminuan said that the White House has not issued any position on CNMI immigration and is unaware of the ongoing talks about possible federalization of the commonwealth.

Pete A asks Congress for \$1M for CHC

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio has asked the U.S. Congress for \$1 million for the repair of infrastructure at the Commonwealth's only hospital. Tenorio made this request in a written testimony he submitted to the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs last week. According to Tenorio, the Commonwealth Health Center needs \$1 million to replace its back-up generator and reverse osmosis water treatment equipment, and to upgrade the hospital interfaces. "The lives of the patients in the Commonwealth Health Center are dependent on stable power and clean water," he noted.

March 7, 2008

New two-day festival will highlight cultural diversity

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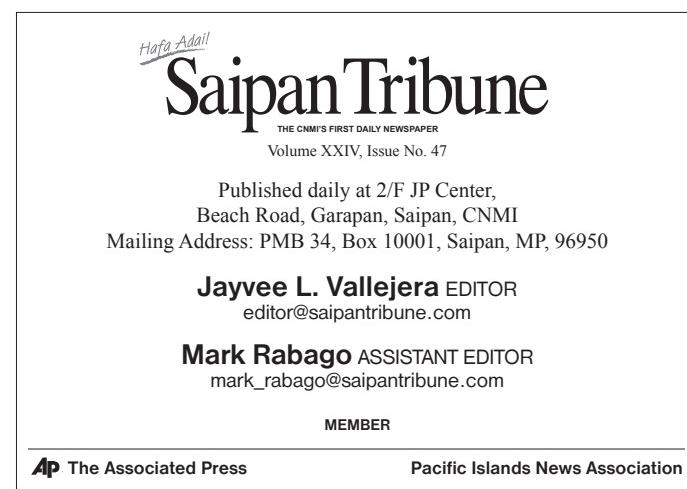
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Opinion



EDITORIAL

Europe, US must block Putin's foray into Ukraine

Vladimir Putin's foray into Ukraine has to be stopped. If the delusional head of state thinks this will re-establish Russia as a global power, he's wrong. Instead his country will be a pariah, its troubled economy doomed to continue its slide.

But it is not primarily the role of the United States to make that point or to impose consequences. Europe's interests in the future of Ukraine and all of Eastern Europe are direct: It was Ukraine's inclination to join the European Union that started Putin on this course of conflict. What nation might be next on his list?

President Barack Obama should act as a catalyst to organize allies, convene the debate about sanctions and other possible actions—but he should not act alone. Going mano-a-mano with Putin and rattling sabers would be right up the egotistic Russian's alley. (He probably actually owns a saber.) It could destroy the chances of a resolution without bloodshed.

Putin needs to see dramatic economic and political repercussions if he persists in his aggression. The costs to Russia of invading eastern Ukraine and the Crimean Peninsula have to be far greater than what Putin hopes to gain from Ukraine's economic resources.

Russia's economy seemed to be slowing significantly as the tensions in Ukraine were rising. The Russian stock market plunged 13 percent Monday in response to worldwide condemnation.

Analysts once thought Russia's oil and gas reserves portended a strong economy. The outlook now is more bleak, as Putin's European neighbors begin weaning themselves from dependence on Russian energy exports. This is one reason Ukraine's assets may look attractive to Moscow.

Obama and U.S. allies should build on Secretary of State John Kerry's offer of economic aid to stabilize Ukraine.

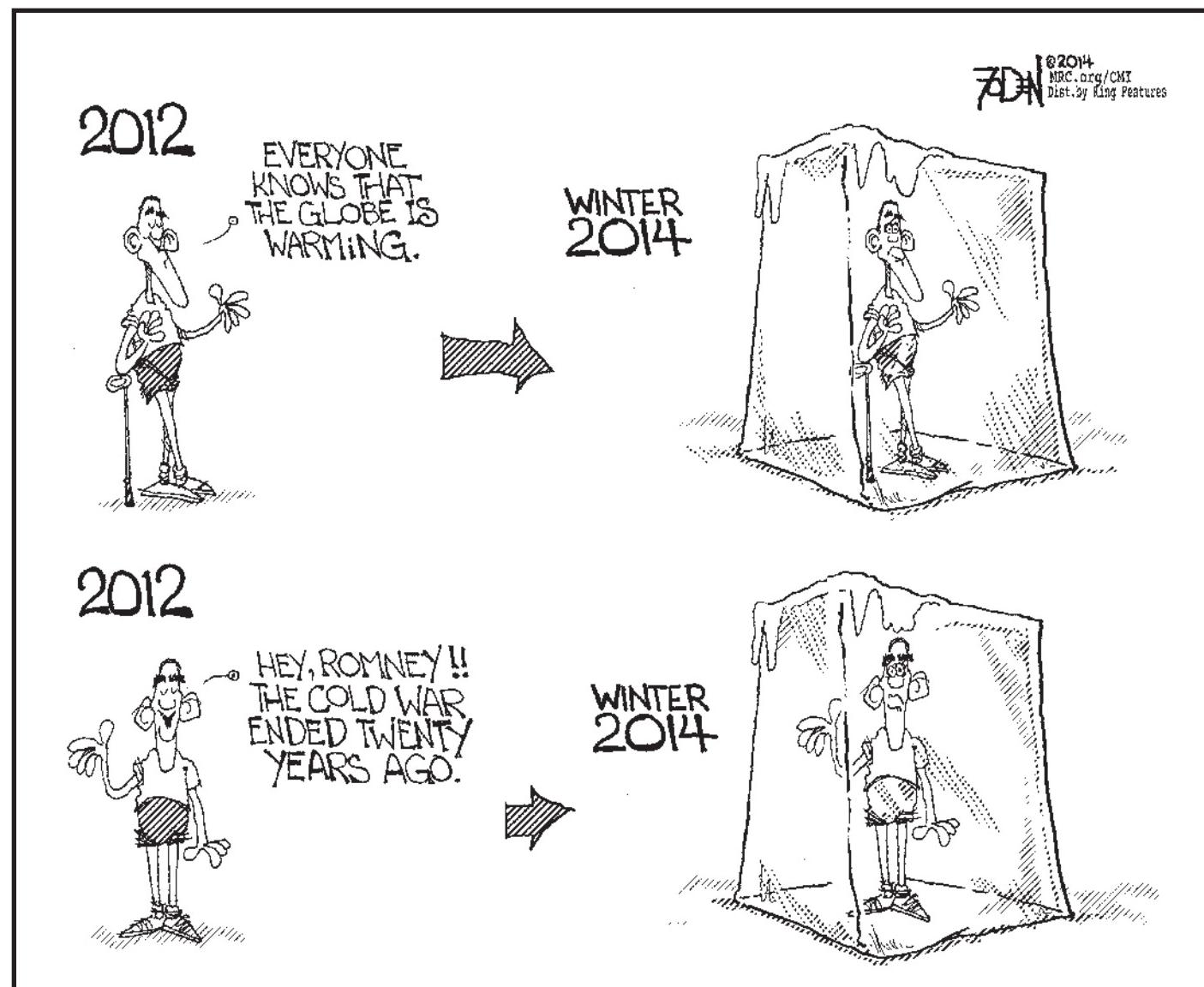
Sanctions against Russia are equally important, but the United States is not one of Russia's top 10 trading partners. The president will need to persuade countries that do more business with Russia to push for sanctions.

Blocking investment in Russia will be essential. But don't be surprised if Europe is less willing to impose sanctions than Obama or Congress.

Europe's close ties to Russia are a double-edged sword. Europe's recovering economy, while moving away from fossil fuels, still depends on Russian energy. And European leaders will be reluctant to take steps that damage their own economies.

The more Ukraine and its neighbors, such as Poland and the Czech Republic, integrate with Europe, the better off the whole continent will be in the long run. But that means standing up to Russia now.

The alternative is returning to a Cold War that pits the interests of Mother Russia and its satellites against the United States and its allies. Nobody wants that. Except, perhaps, Putin, who has called the breakup of the Soviet Union the "greatest geopolitical catastrophe" of the 20th century.



Saipan a Century hence

The title is from a historian on the Philippines, made famous with Rizal's annotations, but ours is not a projection on what I think Saipan is going to be like a century from now. My title's Century is capitalized, the one I associate with Tan Holdings.

We had Saipan in yesterday's reflection. Today, I deal with Century Tours before returning to Shenyang, China. I am not in any way related to any of the Tan Holdings companies, though I write for its newspaper. I had some interest in Century Tour's plans, personally and professionally. Once I ran into Jerry Tan at the Pudong International. I took the inaugural flight to China before so I was not surprised to see him at the airport; I on the Shanghai-Saipan flight. Of nodding acquaintance on Saipan, we exchanged greetings and I discovered that they were enlarging travel coverage to other cities in China. I was interested in charter flights from Shenyang to Saipan so I could bring a group of English learners to an English-speaking U.S.-related island in the Pacific, two to three times a year, especially during the cold season when it would be attractive for families to come down to the sun.

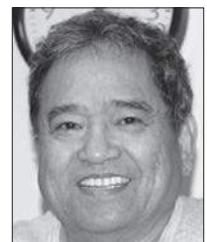
The visitors' industry is clearly a major part of Saipan's future and it has great developmental potential beyond just scouring the visitor of ze life's savings on ticky-tacky offerings that makes for a cheap Disneyland.

But first, let me describe a place outside of Dalian's train station. A wide open park sits in front of the old station but underneath are shops where Russian, Japanese, Korean, English, and Chinese languages are spoken. Dalian had been colonized by Russia and Japan. Though in Manchu territory, Manchuria of the Hans supported the Gong Chang Dang (Communist) against the Kuomintang (Nationalist) so the Putunghua (or Mandarin, literally common language) is the main language. Hangguel (Korean) is but a ferry away to NoKor and SoKor, and English from the British Admiralty and the American influence since the Beijing Olympics 2008 is now widely spoken. Five lingos are spoken in a city that has the reputation of being the Hong Kong of the north (or Hong Kong is the Dalian of the south!).

This week on Saipan, I heard Urdu, Marathi, Bengali, Hindi, Thai, Khmer, Yuenan (Viet), Russian, Korean, Japanese, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Belgic, Arabic, Jewish, Fukien, Cantonese, Mandarin with a spattering of Yuruba and Swahili, along with Chamorro, Carolinian, Marshallese, and Palauan. Not to mention the multitudinous CW-conscious Filipinos with nine languages and dialects. Saipan is not an isolated island in the Western Pacific. It is pluralistic and diverse in composition. To harp on indigene vs. foreigner demographics only aids the few who are favored by land-

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinopanda2031@aol.com.



ownership laws.

I stayed at the Century Hotel. Shirley's Restaurant at the lobby sees middle income Pilipinos who bring family and guests to crowded tables. Jhems Restaurant is more for drinking before food. The lower income end goes to D'Elegance where I went because of their quick *turo-turo* (point-point) cafeteria service. Shirley's menu style requires wait time for the kitchen to do their thing. With the new sidewalk curtailing D'Elegance parking, it caters more to the pedestrian Pinoy traffic. I was at home there until I asked for a copy of the *Tribune* and discovered that they only sold the *Variety*. Of course, Shirley's only carries the *Tribune* as well, so tit-for-tat made the situation understandable, but I started ordering from the menu.

Century's sister hotel is the Kanoa Resort where a family of one of my pre-schoolers in Shenyang stayed on a week tour to the Commonwealth last spring. I heard that Century was in the process of initiating tours from Wu Han in Jiangsu, Hangzhou in Zhejiang, and Tianjin, one of China's four urban municipalities directly administered by the central government. Since I chose to hang out in China for most of the coming seven years, I was curious of plans especially as the Century Tour group was rumored to have Shenyang on its sights as well.

Our enthusiasm was momentarily drenched. Saipan originating flights to China on U.S. registered planes earned the envy of other American carriers vying for additional inland city markets. Century might just find itself charter soloing to Beijing and back without spreading its wings further, if the big flyers have their way.

My interest is to utilize Saipan's strength as a destination for those in China and Russia (*Bol'shoye spasibo pozhalujsta*, will have to wait for another article), the primary tourist source at the moment, who might want to stretch the limits of their spoken English. Many of our CW children are good English speakers, and aside from the beautiful sceneries and historic locations, it might be well for Century Tours to keep a list of English speaking hosts (children will be fine) in case I can gather learners on the other end to send to our shores. A people-to-people encounter is my pedagogical line.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Common scents

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

If you follow the auto world you've noticed that retro is popular, especially when it comes to classic muscle cars. The Dodge Challenger, Ford Mustang and Chevy Camaro are three examples of old muscle turned new again. The '70s played a role in these histories, not only due to car design, but also because of muscular marketing. It was a creative era, piping pitches for everything from fast cars to cheap cologne into America's living rooms.

The car ads are well-remembered, often discussed, and still studied. But how about the cologne?

Well, that's worth a look, too.

If you're selling a car, you can show how impressive the car looks, just as if you're selling tropical tourism on Saipan you can show how beautiful the beaches are.

But how do you describe a smell?

Apparently, you don't.

None of the ads that I remember tried to describe a smell, at least in anything but the most vague terms (e.g., "manly"). The sales

pitch was all about image, portraying the product in a scene a viewer might want to buy into.

I was too young to be in the target market for fragrances during this period, and I can only reflect on the ads I've seen and recall, which is surely a mere fraction of the overall action. Still, any marketing that sticks in your head for a few decades has got some real punch to it, so it's better heeded than ignored.

An old-school brand that kept its stride in the '70s was an aftershave called Aqua Velva. It's still around and sold in drug stores starting at under \$5 a bottle.

I can't even remember where I put my checkbook this morning, but the Aqua Velva jingle from decades ago comes easily to mind: "There's something about an Aqua Velva man."

The TV ads I remember seemed to be pitching to regular guys. Baseball legend Pete Rose starred in one ad, singing a little ditty along with some other at-the-ballpark kind of guys. It was a little bit hokey, but this gave it a hometown charm.

Aqua Velva was probably in your father's medicine cabinet and maybe in your grandfather's, too. So I surmise that it didn't have to sell its way into your family, since it was already there. It seemed like it just wanted to remind you that it was still around and still one of the guys.

Meanwhile, another product, also for men, is forever associated with this era: Hai Karate cologne.

If one goal of advertising is to attract attention, well, Hai Karate did get plenty of that.

From what I remember, the brand seemed to be built around pure sh*t. The TV spots I saw featured a somewhat geeky guy. The Hai Karate he's wearing triggers a lust-frenzy among proximate females. The guy resorts to using karate to evade the women.

If that trajectory didn't make sense to you, well, don't worry, it

didn't make sense to me either. I understood that the ads were hyperbolic farce for the sake of attention, but, even making that allowance, I didn't see a likable aspect to the concept.

Of course, what I thought, or didn't think, was of no consequence in the broader market. I have no idea if Hai Karate was a money-maker or not. But, whatever the legacy is, the sun long ago set on it, so we'll move on to other things.

Which brings us to a brand that is still going strong: It's a line of women's fragrances and bath products called Jean Nate (pronounced in the fancy French way: "na-TAY").

I don't recall any TV ads for it, but that doesn't mean it was weak in the marketing realm. It had a very powerful presence, due in part to a deceptively simple concept: colors.

Jean Nate's "trade dress" (packaging) was yellow with black writing. These colors got ample shelf space in drug stores and department stores.

If you needed to buy a gift, you'd (a) head to the store, and (b) look for the yellow-and-black color scheme. Jean Nate products came packaged in individual units and in a variety of gift sets, so a gift-giver had a wide spectrum of options. Prices these days run about \$8 to \$25 in the examples I looked up.

I remember standing in the yellow glow of the Jean Nate section of the store as a kid, clawing the quarters out of my pockets, tallying up the value, then picking out a gift for Grandma.

Anyway, I've mentioned three brands, but I'm saving another one for another day, at which time we'll look at what is surely one of the best TV ads ever aired.

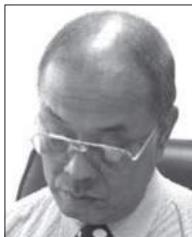
So: How do you sell a smell? If you can answer that, you can probably sell anything. It makes selling tourism on Saipan seem easy by comparison.

Leadership or liarship

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Over coffee, several educated youngsters were broaching issues that were soundly avoided by the elected elite upstairs. It's an interesting discussion given that the level revolves around knowledge-based exchange in addition to thoughtful views.

Financial/economic posture

"When a government is strapped by heavy debts coupled with strangulations from predatory policies, is there room to navigate our way out of economic dystopia and fiscal impotence—where nothing works—so we begin the long march to recovery?" asked a student.

Quizzed another: "Let's focus on the economic implications of huge debts on our future and those who march behind us. What does it mean and is there a leeway to avoid more piles of debt?"

"Excellent query that places the debate squarely on whether there's leadership or liarship on the islands today and at a time when it is in dire need of the former?"

"Politicians have ensured the insolvency of the Fund. Is this leadership or liarship?"

"This issue involves nearly 3,000 retirees and their families for a total of over 10,000 folks. Central to this issue is the detrimental reliance on that biweekly paycheck for their livelihood. Is the disruption and likely permanent end to their means of livelihood one of leadership or liarship?"

"This happens when politicians feed off a hog's back until the beast falls flat on its face, dead! Interesting their reactions as though they too are victims of their own destructive agenda and definitely this attitude is far from leadership for it lacked the spiritual stature to see the needs of others."

"Even more egregious is the lack of a sense of direction and purpose in the review and consideration of policies that adds to instability, a very highly detrimental message for investors of substance. Herein, again, we quiz if this disconnect is leadership, liarship, or followership."

Kilili's fatal scourge

As though egregious hardship hasn't robbed families of their buying power with what's left in their wallets, in came our esteemed

Delegate Kilili with his Trojan horse known as Obamacare.

The devastating effect is another heavy blow against the family purse. It further degrades and destroys another means for families to stay afloat amidst a myriad of increases from all directions.

It's a health care law members of Congress approved so they could find out what's in it later. It's a law known nationwide as the "Lie of 2013" that failed from its initial rollout. It has denied, displaced, and disrupted the lives of millions of Americans across the country.

The promised savings of \$2,500 never materialized but took the exact opposite where it pushed the cost of health premium beyond the reach of most folks here.

The devastation has crash-landed and instantly emptied the wallets of families who are searching tirelessly for reasonable alternative to which there's none. Perhaps our Delegate Kilili who has done a superb job avoiding any discussion of his scourge may someday work up the courage to be truthful to our people. This attitude definitely doesn't fit the term leadership but custom made for liarship!

Two-headed snake's back!

"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe"—Albert Einstein.

When leadership failed royally in the consideration of pertinent substantive issues for more than three decades, somehow it forces the reactionary answer that a casino industry is the Holy Grail to the fiscal impotence or bankruptcy of the NMI.

Policymakers have devolved into the pits of lunacy and filthy mediocrity proclaiming, via another ad hoc answer in perpetuity, that casino is the answer. Are you sure you aren't talking about storming up a more egregious fiscal disaster that would find its way into households here?

What's our share of the market of the wealthy bunch when by 2016 Japan would have built its own casino industry, Macau would have catered to top wealthy players, Singapore becomes a pit stop for others, while South Korea manages its own?

Sen. President Ralph Torres lamely justified his affirmative vote saying, "Times have changed." Sir, the only thing that changed was the heaps of negligence from leadership who simply failed to do things right by doing the right thing. You sport initial apprehension of the fiscal impotence besetting the NMI while equally acknowledging the lack of conscientious leadership for decades who obviously never acquired nor learned from wisdom. Despicably ludicrous the myopic and hollow view.

Interesting the content of the suspect measure, raising more questions whether the license isn't fixed and sold to a preferred applicant. Furthermore, why a 100 percent tax rebate for 25 years? The deal definitely stinks or isn't it predicated on the recent China trip by legislators?

Administrative state

The Fourth Estate or Administrative State has been established under the Obama presidency to dish out some 101 major policies. Each policy is reportedly going to cost about \$100 million.

The administrative state becomes the arm of the administration where federal bureaucrats would be crafting policies for implementation nationwide. The most fearsome and troubling aspect of the work of these agencies is the freedom they have writing policies not subject to congressional or judicial review.

But what's the drawback besides subsequently following dictates from people we've never elected into office?

The purported role of the administrative state is one of public policymaking. This on its face is unconstitutional, therefore illegal. In other words, the authority for public policymaking is solely the purview of the U.S. Congress. This authority was never earmarked constitutionally for an administrative state.

Now, given the existence of the Covenant Agreement setting forth the relationship with the feds, has our illustrious Delegate Kilili ever lifted a finger to find out what the 101 planned policies entail and would any of them compromise or violate the substance and spirit of the agreement? Are we supposed to accept it with servility so we could "find out what's in it later?"

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Regurgitation is coming

I told readers they were going to shove casinos down our throats almost eight years ago. Now my critics may finally understand why I keep saying to them that time is always on my side as God has truly blessed me to be able to see over the horizon on certain issues. They may have finally shoved the casino down our throat but there is a thing called regurgitation (throwing up) that will relieve voters from this casino BS. Voters know regurgitation can be an extremely relieving feeling, to know you have gotten something bad out of your system so we know what many, if not the majority of, voters will be doing in November—regurgitating leaders and the casino.

Maybe this is what it takes for my critics to start listening to me as I'm sure this makes the majority voters who attend church mad enough to finally put an end to this casino BS. Even those who supported the casino have now seen the light with the facts finally coming to light, which tells me the Saipan casino may become law but it will have a very short life, given the plans for the coming election.

Now our leaders want to talk about the problems with the bill and how it will adversely affect other businesses. Where were they and why didn't they say something publicly when I first mentioned the bill would cannibalize other business? I guess they had to see it for themselves in living color. Well here is some advice: Smart people learn from wisdom and knowledge of other people, intelligent the people usually have to learn from their own mistakes, and stupid people never listen or learn at all. Something I borrowed from Antonio R. Cabrera but I changed a few words to fit this scenario (thanks Antonio).

Ambrose M Bennett

Kagman, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 87° ▾ 75°

▲ 86° ▾ 75°

▲ 86° ▾ 75°

▲ 87° ▾ 75°

▲ 87° ▾ 75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 84	▼ 76
Palau	Cloudy	▲ 86	▼ 75
Yap	Showers	▲ 86	▼ 76
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84	▼ 79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86	▼ 77
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86	▼ 77
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86	▼ 80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71	▼ 62
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 52	▼ 28
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 69	▼ 60
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 76	▼ 68
London	Cloudy	▲ 57	▼ 42
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76	▼ 55
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86	▼ 74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79	▼ 61
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 80	▼ 57
New York	Cloudy	▲ 42	▼ 33
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 50	▼ 37
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 60	▼ 40
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 49	▼ 34
Rome	Sunny	▲ 65	▼ 43
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 62	▼ 40
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 63	▼ 51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44	▼ 29
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 51	▼ 34
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 43	▼ 32

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:31 AM	6:26 PM	Today	10:49 AM	11:54 PM
Saturday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM	Saturday	11:37 AM	
Sunday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM	Sunday	12:26 PM	12:45 AM
Monday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM	Monday	1:14 PM	1:33 AM
Tuesday	6:28 AM	6:27 PM	Tuesday	2:03 PM	2:19 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

ISLAND SNAPSHOTS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-GUAM

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5039	1:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA5038	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA5078	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA5072	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	1:35pm	2:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
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ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	2:40pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-OSSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
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SAIPAN-MARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
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SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:00am	6:00am	1
OZ602	2:20am	5:50am	3
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ603	3:30am	7:20am	4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29)
D2104	2:00pm	5:30pm	6
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
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BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU764	4:00am	8:00am</td

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film

THE AMERICAN DREAM

BY ALL STARS PRODUCTIONS (ERVINE E. SANTIAGO, RONNEL RINGOR,
JULLIAN BRIOSOS, AND STEVAN ROQUE) - MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL

SAIMERICAN DREAM

BY MD PRODUCTIONS (MIGUEL L. DANDAN) - MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL

THE AMERICAN DREAM IN THE CNMI

BY AUDREY CAMACHO, IRAMHEL TALON, AND MICHAEL IAN TALON - KAGMAN HIGH SCHOOL

photo montage

THE AMERICAN DREAM IN THE CNMI

BY EMMAN PARIAN - GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

MY DREAM

BY ENOCH HUANG - AGAPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

This film festival is made possible by a 2010 We The People grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and is sponsored by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in the films or photo montages are those of the creator and do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The end is near: Part 2

Three months to the deadline for U.S. Labor to decide whether the transition period is to be extended or not and worries of mass repatriation are looming in the minds of foreign workers in the Commonwealth. Lengthening the decision to pass an immigration reform bill or to extend the transition is like in-

flicting severe pain on the already disenfranchised foreign workers on the islands. The required 180 days is insufficient for us to plan ahead, short of packing our personal and valuable belongings or disposing it. The U.S. House of Representatives, USCIS, DHS, and the U.S. Department of Labor

BUSINESS ACCOUNT MANAGER

JVA # C-1-2014-3

Candidates are to have the following minimum qualifications:

- Associate's degree from an accredited college in marketing, advertising, business management or related field, or two years additional related work experience
- Two years professional-level sales experience, preferably in the telecommunications industry

Candidates must be able to demonstrate successful accomplishments in the following areas:

- Represent IT&E to the business community and developing connections that will lead to the sale and continued usage of IT&E products, equipment and services.
- Develop and initiate sales contacts to increase customer base. Prepare sales proposals based on customer needs. Insure customer satisfaction before and after sale is made.
- Assist the Sales Manager in the development of the IT&E sales strategy, providing input and expertise relevant to sales issues, developing individual and departmental goals and objectives.
- Implement sales strategies that will enable the achievement of sales objectives and create profitable market expansion for the various IT&E services and products
- Provide input to departmental sales reports to show sales volume and product sales statistics.
- Participate in in-service training, cross-training, and other programs and strategies to improve sales skills and productivity and to enhance personal advancement potential

Candidate must also be able to

- Communicate clearly, concisely and accurately with all levels of staff and customers, both verbally and in writing
- Understand and explain to customers the details of telecommunications equipment, business systems, networks, and processes
- Make logical and sound decisions in the resolution of difficult and complex sales situations
- Work in a team environment and maintain high personal morale and motivation
- Analyze, understand and interpret work situations, technical documents, reports and results
- Perform in a self-directed, hard-working, creative and forward thinking manner

Interested candidates must complete an IT&E application by Thursday, March 13, 2014, and submit it to IT&E Headquarters building in Susupe.



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are currently in "silent mode" on foreign workers' immigration issues in the CNMI. Foreign workers are left with nothing but worries and uncertainties every day. In other words, foreign workers are being harmed and demoralized. A March 3, 2014, article titled "No assurance on CW extension" creates more negative speculations that, indeed, the end is near.

Foreign workers and employers cannot move forward within the next nine months of 2014. Majority, if not all, of foreign workers' plans for the next nine months are on hold because of the immigration instability. The rest are minimizing their spending on unnecessary items, cannot decide whether to enroll in health insurance, or apply for personal loans, among others.

Worries and uncertainties

If the U.S. authorities will decide not to pass the comprehensive immigration reform bill or not to extend the transition period, then it is to the advan-

tage of foreign workers if these authorities announce it as early as today so that foreign workers will have enough time to apply for jobs in other countries within the next nine months. A lot of former CNMI foreign workers are now enjoying employment in other countries such as the Middle East, China, Africa, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, Canada, and in the U.S. mainland, among others. This is not the only place where foreign workers can explore their knowledge and abilities, although they'd love to stay and work here for many more years.

US citizen children

U.S. authorities must lay down their decision on the status of foreign workers as early as today, so that foreign worker parents will still have enough time to educate their children that sooner or later, they will be leaving Saipan after Dec. 31, 2014, and will say goodbye to the island they call home. With that, children can also adjust

themselves on what to do within the next nine months of waiting.

Today, thousands of foreign workers' children are already at a voting age. What if these children will say, "I will stay on Saipan. I will not go with my parents because this is my place"? U.S. authorities must have a contingency plan on how to deal with these kids that will be left behind by their parents. Some U.S. citizen children of foreign workers who were repatriated after the closure of garment factories are now coming back one by one, landing at the airport with their backpack and seeking jobs here on Saipan and in Guam. To date, there are thousands of foreign workers children who are already eligible to vote in the upcoming CNMI local election. U.S. authorities must decide now so that parents of these children will still have time to lead, guide, and train their kids on how to exercise their right to vote. These children can also stay behind if they so decide, and find a job while their parents are miles away from them.

Repatriation issues

The defective USCIS final regulations state that the last employer of records will repatriate their foreign national workers to their country of hire. There are a lot of foreign workers who are now unemployed because of the non-renewal of their CW1 permit. USCIS said that "a CW1 grantee is no longer qualified for any type of parole." Because of that fatal regulation, a lot are already out of immigration status. USCIS' fatal regulations are eliminating foreign workers, indirectly driving them out of U.S. soil. In some cases, former employers are no longer on island. Who will then be in charge of the repatriation of these out-of-status foreign workers?

To my fellow foreign workers, be mindful that there is a saying: "Do not depend too much on anyone in this world because even your own shadow will leave you when you are in darkness." True.

Carlito J. Marquez

Lower Base, Saipan

Get off scot-free

Former attorney general Edward Buckingham came to answer the allegations while he was the CNMI attorney general. The sentence has been handed down.

I am a little confused. He got off free because there is no imposed punishment except in paper—all suspended.

This sends a message. To me, it is alright to do wrong as a government high official. As an official, you get a slap on the wrist and go free. What will prevent other high officials from doing wrong, to do

the same things that Buckingham did or even worse?

The CNMI citizens are left with nothing; nothing seems to be protected. Any high government official who is inclined to do wrong can do so. After all, there is no punishment, just a slap on the wrist. This place is a haven for people who can be high government officials—they can never do wrong that will merit punishment.

Fe Y. Calixterio

Fina Sisu, Saipan

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* Kia Soul LX retail price \$18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$300.90 or \$138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$18,054.00.

** Kia Forte LX retail price \$18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$300.90 or \$138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$18,054.00.

Forty-three travel agents from Hangzhou, China, took a familiarization tour of Saipan in February 2014 to gain first-hand information about the destination. Direct flights from Hangzhou to this beach resort destination now fly every six days beginning in January 2014.

The travel agents visited in two separate groups between Feb. 22 and March 4. While on island, they inspected Aquarius Beach Tower, Kanoa Resort, Sun Palace, Coral Ocean Point Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Mariana Resort & Spa, Kingfisher Golf Course, Century Hotel, Kingfisher Golf Course, and Fiesta Resort & Spa.

"With the launch of direct flights from Hangzhou this year, this FAM tour will give travel agents first-hand experience with the Northern Marianas. This exposure will allow them to better sell tour packages here and keep demand for those flights high," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bate-

Travel agents from Hangzhou tour Saipan



MVA



Travel agents from Hangzhou attend a cultural dinner show at Fiesta Resort & Spa on March 1, 2014, during their FAM tour of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The group was escorted during their tour by Marianas Visitors Authority marketing specialist Laura Hsiao.



MVA

Travel agents from Hangzhou have lunch at 360 Revolving Restaurant on Feb. 24, 2014, during their FAM tour of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The group was escorted during their tour by Marianas Visitors Authority marketing specialist Laura Hsiao, left.

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MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

The Talaabwogh StaR Association would like to extend our most heartfelt thanks to Ghillisow, Si Yu's Ma'asi, and Thank You to all those who unselfishly and generously contributed, assisted, and supported our recently held 2nd Annual T-StaR Prayer Rally and Alcohol and Drug-Free Youth Talent Show last Saturday, March 1, 2014, at the Tanapag Beach roundhouse.

The Prayer Rally and Talent Show was a huge success, allowing our community to come together as one and bring awareness as well as combat the drug and alcohol problem in our community.

This is a shared community success against the fight against drugs and alcohol attributable to the generosity and concern of our community partners that include:

Donors/Agencies/Supporters:

Department of Public Safety
Division of Youth Services
Mrs. Escolastica Iguel
Fr. Nonoy Recaido
Grace Christian Ministry
Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc.
Horizon Inc.
Hyatt Regency Saipan
I-Mart
J&N Store
Kwik Trip
Lollipops Tendan Famaguon
Marpac
National Office Supply
Natibu Sports Association
Pacific Islands Club
Rep. Chris Leon Guerrero
Rep. George Camacho
Sen. Ray Yumul
Tun Goro's Bakery

Judges:

Mr. Bud White, White Coconut Computer
Officer Jason Tarkong, DPS
Ms. Rica Dela Cruz, CHCC: CGC-Project Brabu

Logistics Committee

All Youth Participants

There are countless others that have assisted as well and it would be simply impossible to list each and every one without missing any, but do know that your help is greatly appreciated.

A special acknowledgement is well deserved by our courageous guest speaker, Mr. Greg Magofna. We thank you for your honesty, sincerity, and courage to share your testimony to our community and most especially our youth. It was truly inspirational.

Finally, to the youth and the entire community of our wonderful village of Tanapag, for your participation, dedication, and hard work, Ghillisow, Un dangkulu na Si Yu's Ma'asi and Thank You!

Guidelines for hiring pest control applicators

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality wants the community to be mindful of health and safety regulations when procuring the services of professional exterminators or pest control applicators.

A pesticide is any substance used to control pests. Pests may be target insects, vegetation, fungi, etc. Most control the pests by poisoning them. Unfortunately, pesticides can be poisonous to humans; some are very poisonous, or toxic, and may seriously injure or even kill humans. Others are relatively non-toxic.

Pesticides can irritate the skin, eyes, nose, or mouth.

The most important thing to remember is that you should always use caution whenever you work with any pesticide!

Homeowner advisory

For those building a home or commercial building, DEQ reminds you that prior to conducting pesticide treatment on concrete structure or building foundation projects, there is some information you should be aware of, including obtaining a permit to apply pesticides for pre or post construction projects.

Only a professional pest control applicator can perform the structural treatment. The applicator must be trained and licensed. "Your

family's health and safety may be compromised if the company or applicator is not permitted, licensed or certified," said Reina Camacho, manager for the Pesticide and Storage Tank Branch at DEQ. In selecting a professional termite or pest control company, residents can call DEQ to verify the permit status of these applicators. Camacho said residents can also inquire if operators or applicators of a particular company are licensed and certified. "This is important, because the application of pesticides and other chemicals must be performed or supervised by a certified pesticide applicator. A com-

pany's track record and appropriate insurance are other factors to consider when selecting a professional," she said. Pesticide applicators operating on Saipan are Advance X Terminators, No Ka Oi Termite & Pest Control, Pacific Daiken Corp., and Western Pest Control. DEQ also recommends that homeowners:

- hold a pre-application meeting with the hired company to review what pests to be controlled;
- review the extent of the problem;
- check the active ingredients in the pesticide chosen;
- review potential adverse health effects and typical symptoms of poisoning as-

sociated with the active ingredient;

- check the form of the pesticide and application techniques; and
- review non-chemical alternatives available (such as baiting systems).

Construction company advisory

As soon as you receive your earthmoving permit from DEQ, we recommend you:

- Contact a professional pest control company and provide the establishment with:

1. A vicinity map (and driving directions)
2. A building foundation and footing plan

3. An estimated timeframe for when the foundation shall be ready for pesticide structural treatment

- Once the professional pest control company submits a completed Pesticide Structural Treatment Permit Application to the Division of Environmental Quality, there is a 10-business day processing period.

- Upon review and approval of the permit applica-

tion, DEQ shall communicate with the professional pest control company to schedule the pesticide structural treatment application. (Application is usually performed within two days after the permit has been approved.)

- The pesticide structural treatment application shall be performed during business hours (8am-5pm). For applications outside of business hours, a written request must be submitted to DEQ for approval, prior to the application.

- The pesticide structural treatment application is best performed in the late afternoons, as most pesticides require a 4-hour re-entry interval at the treated site.

DEQ cautions that there are health effects of pesticides, depending on the type of pesticide. Pesticides are designed to kill pests but many can also pose risks to people, thus DEQ requests that construction personnel and homeowners understand the reasons for permitting and cautionary statements and requests cooperation from the community. (BECQ)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
P.O. Box 501000 Saipan, MP 96950



ANNOUNCEMENT

LEADERSHIP & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF- SUFFICIENCY (PHASE I)

Opening Date: March 10, 2014

Closing Date: April 10, 2014

The Division of Youth Services Family & Youth Enhancement Program under the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs will be opening twenty - (20) job skills training opportunities for the island of Saipan, five- (5) for Tinian and five- (5) for Rota that will be funded under the Community Services Block Grant, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The training will commence from April 16, 2014 to September 30, 2014 and will cover the following program areas: **CHILDREN'S PROGRAM; PROGRAM ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**. Some specific responsibilities include, but not limited to:

- Participating in Innovative and informative training offered by DYS & partnering agencies
- Establishing positive collaborative relationships with the community
- Acting as outreach liaison between DYS and the community
- Creating culturally- sensitive and competent services
- Attending relevant community meetings to become familiar with the social services
- Conducting community needs assessments through various community outlets
- Performing other duties as assigned

The purpose of this program is to support activities designed to assist low- income families and individuals through training opportunities and at the same time receive stipend for the commitment demonstrated in strengthening youth development and prevention programs in the community.

Specific information on program requirements and applications may be picked up at the DYS Child Protection Unit Office Building #1324 in Capitol Hill or the DYS Offices on Rota and Tinian. For further information, please contact Jennifer Tanaka, Nina Nekaias or Alex Olopai on Saipan at 664-2564/2599/2550. For Tinian you can contact Augusta Famau at 287-3268 or Joe Santos on Rota at 287-2553.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB14-COTA/FTA-061**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 18, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) FAIR CARD SYSTEM UNITS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER, FEBRUARY 21, 2014 AT COTA, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 2ND FLOOR, NMI RETIREMENT FUND BUILDING, ISA DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL IF, IN ITS OPINION TO DO SO, WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ THOMAS J. CAMACHO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB14-DLNR/DFW-073**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 03, 2014 TIME: 1:00 P.M.

"TO PURCHASE FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE (FAD) RIGGING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Secretary of DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
Director, P&S

**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB14-HSEM-072**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 08, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF TWO (2) PORTABLE SHELTER SYSTEMS FOR HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
Special Assistant, HSEM

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
Director, P&S

Iwo Jima presentation at American Memorial Park

The public is invited to attend an in-depth presentation about the Battle of Iwo Jima. The presentation will be on Saturday, March 8, 2014, from 1pm to 3pm, at the American Memorial Park Theater.

National Park Service historian James Oelke Farley will give an overview of the battle that

occurred 69 years ago during World War II. He will also discuss controversial topics regarding the battle with the audience.

The Battle of Iwo Jima began on Feb. 19, 1945, and lasted 36 days. Nearly 30,000 people died in just over a month of brutal fighting to control the island,

which is only four miles long and two miles wide.

"We are extremely excited to share this presentation with Saipan's residents. We annually welcome veterans of this battle as they prepare to return to the black sands of Iwo Jima. As part of an educational symposium for

the veterans, family members of the deceased, and military historians the day before they fly to

the island, this presentation is given annually and focuses upon photographs, maps, and written

documents to reveal the battle to the audience," said Guam-based Farley. (NPS)

UOG to celebrate Charter Day on March 11

The University of Guam will celebrate its 46th Charter Day on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, at the UOG campus. Opening ceremonies begin at 9am and activities run throughout the day until 5pm.

UOG Charter Day showcases a multitude of activities and events including campus tours, the Annual College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Re-

search Conference, which features over 60 different presentations, the CHamoru Language Competition, agricultural displays, ROTC tactical demonstrations, Chemistry Titration High School Competition, Isla Center for the Arts exhibit, entertainment, food, games, and activities for all ages.

This year, Charter Day also features the finals of the Presi-

dent's Cup Competition where students, alumni, and UOG employees compete in nine different events including basketball, volleyball, badminton, ping pong, dodgeball, and more.

The celebration runs from 9am to 5pm. For details and a list of events, visit www.uog.edu/charterday or visit the UOG Facebook page at www.facebook.com/universityofguam. (UOG)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Q3 mid-progress night at all Kagman schools

All Kagman schools will have their joint 3rd Quarter Mid-Progress Night at Kagman Elementary School's campus on Wednesday, March 12, from 4pm to 6pm. It will be a half-day schedule for all Kagman students.

Kagman Elementary School (Grades K-5th) students will be released at 11:30am. Chacha Ocean View Middle School (Grades 6-8) and Kagman High students will be released at 12pm.

For more information, contact the following numbers: KagES, 664-3911; Chacha, 664-4100; KHS, 664-3788. (PR)

Kagman High parents workshop

Kagman High School will be having a workshop

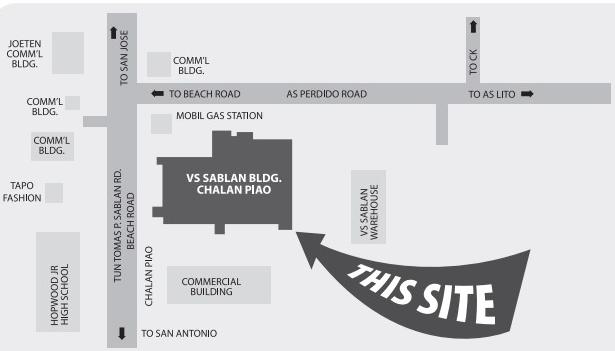
on how to help your child learn how to use reading skills in all content areas. The event will take place on March 22, from 9am to 2:30pm, and April 10, from 5pm to 7:30pm, at the Kagman High School campus. There will be light refreshments and giveaways! (KHS)

WSR School shirts now available for sale

The last day to order William S. Reyes Elementary School shirts will be on March 28, 2014, Friday. Youth sizes XS-L and adult S-XL will cost \$10. Adult XXL and XXXL will be \$12. Please stop by the main office to place your orders. Available colors: Carolina blue, navy blue, royal blue, pink, yellow, gray, and black. (PR)

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Large 4500 square foot space on the **second floor** that would be ideal for a Daycare Center, Dance Studio or Gym at **35¢ per square foot**.

Second Floor - Office Space, 900 sq.ft. to 1,400 sq. ft. at **50¢ per square foot**.

2nd Floor Office Space (1 Unit) Available at Chalan Kanoa, Above Bank of Saipan - **800 Sq ft per unit at 65 cents per square foot**.

For Lease – 53,500 Sq Meters Available for Lease in Kanat Tabla. Ocean View, 31 years Remaining on Lease. Asking 10.00 per square meter. Negotiable.

– **3,779 Sq Meters Available for Lease at Laulau Bay**.

44 years Remaining on Lease.

Asking \$25.00 per square meter. Negotiable.

Warehouse For Lease – 6750 Square Feet with Storage Yard Fenced in Totaling 2000 square meters.

Located at our Chalan Piao location.

Asking \$2,000.00 per month. Negotiable.

Contact Tony Muna (Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: plebechamp80@gmail.com) or Ben Sablan (Cell No. 898-2454 Email Address: ben.sablan1994@gmail.com) or Call 234-2585.

If You Purchased Municipal Derivative Transactions from January 1, 1992 to August 18, 2011 You Could Get a Payment for a Class Action Settlement.

A proposed Settlement has been reached with GE Funding Capital Market Services, Inc., Trinity Funding Co., LLC and Trinity Plus Funding Co., LLC (collectively, "GE"), in a class action lawsuit that alleges price-fixing in the sale of municipal derivatives transactions by GE and other companies. The case, *In re Municipal Derivatives Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 1950, No. 08-02516, is pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Who Is Included in the Settlement?

This Settlement includes all state, local and municipal government entities, independent government agencies, quasi-government, non-profit and private entities that purchased:

- (1) Municipal derivative transactions through negotiation, competitive bidding or auction, from any Alleged Provider Defendant or brokered by any Alleged Broker Defendant,
- (2) Any time from January 1, 1992 through August 18, 2011 in the United States and its territories or for delivery in the United States and its territories.

The Defendants and Co-Conspirators are listed in the detailed notice available on the Settlement website.

What Does the Settlement Provide?

GE agreed to a settlement amount of \$18.25 million. This Settlement is only a partial settlement of the lawsuit because it only affects the claims against GE. The lawsuit is continuing against other Defendants. Morgan Stanley, Wachovia/Wells Fargo, and JPMorgan have already settled. GE will provide reasonable cooperation, including discovery cooperation, to Class Plaintiffs' Counsel in the litigation that will continue against the other Defendants.

What Do I Do Now?

- **Remain in the Settlement.** To remain in the Settlement Class and participate in the Settlement, you do not have to do anything now. If the Court approves the Settlement, you give up the right to sue GE for the claims and issues in this case. The Settlement Agreement, specifically Paragraph 1(bb), which is available at www.MunicipalDerivativesSettlement.com, describes in more detail the legal claims that you give up if you stay in the Class. If you remain in the Settlement Class, you still have the right to exclude yourself from any other settlements with other defendants reached in this lawsuit. Claim forms are not available now. Register on the Settlement website to receive a claim form when it becomes available.

- **Exclude yourself from the Settlement.** If you do not want to remain in the Settlement Class, you must exclude yourself. You must send a written request for exclusion by first-class mail, **postmarked no later than May 6, 2014** to the Settlement Administrator. The detailed notice available on the Settlement website describes the information you are required to include in your request for exclusion. If you exclude yourself, you cannot participate in the Settlement, but you retain your right to sue GE on your own for the claims in this lawsuit.

NOTE: You may receive similar notices regarding proposed settlements with other Defendants (i.e., Bank of America). However, if you wish to exclude yourself from the GE settlement, you **must send a separate and specific notice with regard to the GE settlement**.

- **Object or Comment on the Settlement.** If you remain in the Settlement Class and want to object to or comment on the GE Settlement or any part of it, you must file an objection with the Court and deliver a copy to Class Counsel and GE **no later than May 6, 2014**.

When Will the Court Decide Whether to Approve the Settlement?

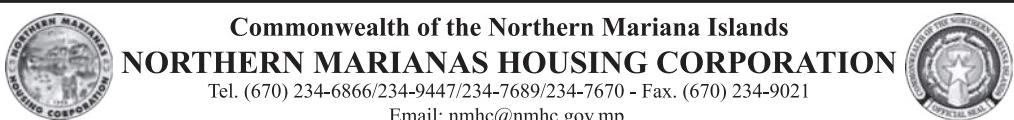
The Court has scheduled a hearing on June 6, 2014, at 10 a.m. at the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007, to consider whether to finally approve the GE Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate, whether to approve Class Counsel's request for reimbursement of litigation expenses, and to consider any objections.

The Court has appointed the law firms of Hausfeld LLP; Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP; and Susman Godfrey L.L.P. to serve as Class Counsel and represent all Class Members. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense. You or your lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing but are not required to. If you want to be heard by the Court, you must file a written notice of your intention to appear with the Court and deliver a copy to the Class Counsel and GE **no later than May 6, 2014**. The Court may change the time and date of the hearing. Any change will be posted on the Settlement website.

Get More Information

For more information on this lawsuit, your rights, or to obtain a list of defendants, call or visit the Settlement website listed below or write to Municipal Derivatives Settlement, c/o Rust Consulting, Inc., P.O. Box 2500, Faribault, MN 55021-9500.

For more information: 1-877-310-0512 www.MunicipalDerivativesSettlement.com



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists.

NMHC has developed a QAP and is available at NMHC's office. The QAP describes the basis that NMHC will use to allocate LIHTCs. NMHC may allocate **\$2,466,520.00** in LIHTCs for the 2014 program year.

Application for LIHTCs

Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the LIHTCs should obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application may be obtained from NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 or through our website at www.nmhc.gov.mp.

Owners/Developers must file the completed LIHTC Application along with the **\$1,000.00 Application Fee** in NMHC's Office by the Application Deadline of **4:30 p.m., June 30, 2014**. NMHC staff will review the application and will notify the Owner/Developer of any deficiencies by 15 days time or **July 15, 2014**. The owner/developer will be given 14 days to correct any deficiencies. Any corrections or supplemental information requested by NMHC must be received by **July 29, 2014**. The projects will be scored and recommendations made to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its **August 2014** Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards

NMHC will notify Owners/Developers of the projects receiving LIHTCs thirty (30) days following the August 2014 Board of Directors meeting. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by no later than thirty (30) days from the date of notification.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangements, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Seman at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

9 pct. hike in CNMI's CIP funding

President Barack Obama's proposed fiscal year 2015 budget contains \$9.6 million for the CNMI's capital improvement project funding, a 9-percent increase from fiscal year 2014's \$8.8 million but still much lower than what the islands used to receive, including \$12.5 million in 2005 and \$11 million in 2010.

But while the CNMI and the U.S. Virgin Islands' CIP funding for fiscal year 2015 went up as proposed, the CIP funding for American Samoa and Guam went down.

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs announced Wednesday

\$27.7 million in CIP funding for U.S. territories to "create economic opportunity" and "improve the quality of life in those communities."

OIA said that in fiscal year 2015, the CNMI will receive \$9.6 million in CIP funding; American Samoa, \$9.3 million; Guam, \$5.8 million; and the U.S. Virgin Islands, \$3.1 million.

These are part of Obama's \$678.1 million budget for OIA, which oversees U.S. territories and the Freely Associated States. The OIA budget includes \$92.2 million in annual appropriations and

\$585.9 million in permanent and indefinite appropriations for fiscal payments mandated by law to U.S. territories and Freely Associated States.

Interior acting assistant secretary for insular areas Lori Faeth said the 2015 budget request "demonstrates President Obama's continued commitment to the U.S. insular areas."

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) also said Obama's budget supports lifting the cap on federal Medicaid expenditures in territories for the purpose of setting up fraud control units, among other things. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

Free ANA pre-application training workshop

The Pacific Region Training and Technical Assistance Center announced yesterday that the Administration for Native Americans' pre-application training workshop will be conducted on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian on March 17 and 18, 2014, at the Northern Marianas College campuses, from 9am to 4pm. On Saipan, the workshop will be held in Rome N-5, and will be available through live teleconference at the Rota and Tinian NMC campuses for Rota and Tinian participants.

These pre-application trainings are designed to provide prospective ANA applicants with "nuts and bolts" information on the federal application

process and ANA Funding Opportunity Announcements for Social and Economic Development Strategies and Native Language Preservation and Maintenance.

Participants will learn how to:

- Register and apply on grants.gov;
- Understand the ANA Funding Opportunity Announcement Evaluation Criteria;
- Format, package, structure and submit an application for ANA funding consideration.

The training sessions are offered free of charge to tribes and Native American, Native Alaskan, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander non-profit organizations.

The workshop will specifically cover the Social Economic Development Strategies and the Native Language program areas.

Learn what it takes to write the perfect ANA grant application. This workshop will cover this year's Funding Opportunity Announcements—which outline the scoring criteria for your program area—and make sure you're set up to successfully submit your application.

Register online at www.anapacificbasin.org/ana-training/ so that enough materials can be prepared before the workshop. However, participants can also register as walk-ins. For more information, call 483-4441. (PR)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real property will be sold at auction:

Lot No.: 003 D 16 ADETF A ST. GARAPAN (Annex), SAIPAN MINIMUM BID: \$83,700.00
Lot No.: 003 D 22 AEDTF A ST. GARAPAN (Annex), SAIPAN MINIMUM BID: \$76,950.00

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on March 17, 2014, subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid.** The minimum acceptable bid for each property shall be \$(please see above).
2. **Reserve.** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. **Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - a. To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c. To reject any and all bids.
4. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Law Office of Vicente T. Salas, P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. **Deposit; Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard). The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC.
6. **Change of Terms.** NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 18th day of February, 2014.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation



INVITATION TO BID ITB14-GOV-065

Roof Repair & Coating of the Ada Gymnasium & Guma Husitia - Judicial Complex

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude H. Hofschneider, are soliciting sealed bids for the Roof Repair & Coating of the Ada Gymnasium & Guma Husitia - Judicial Complex

The project package will be available Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing **no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on March 7, 2014** to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB14-GOV-065". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, March 21, 2014. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. Saipan local time March 21, 2014**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@picom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than March 21, 2014 and must be received no later than **March 28, 2014**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **1:00 p.m. Saipan local time, March 28, 2014**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will open at **1:30 p.m. Saipan local time, on March 21, 2014**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P & S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable asset are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Government Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

NMC set to enforce rankings to resolve salary disparities

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College is set to unveil a proposal endorsing a "Faculty Ranking System" that will guide how it pays its faculty members.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart described the faculty workforce as a critical element in determining the success of an institution and this new ranking system will boost the morale and competitiveness of educators in its fold.

NMC currently has 31 full-time faculty members.

Under the proposed \$7.9 million budget for fiscal year 2015, the college proposes to allocate some \$200,000 to adjust the compensation of faculty members.

"Part of our budget proposal is the \$200,000 for this faculty ranking system that we're developing. Because it will be a competitive process, this will go to the board for final approval," she explained.

Under the new system, faculty members will be classified into professors, assistant professors, associate professors, and instructors, among others. For a faculty member to avail of the salary set for a particular category, he/she must satisfy the cri-

teria and mechanism approved by the college.

Hart said among the criteria that may be evaluated are "community involvement" as well as "researches" and "grants" that members may have completed and obtained. It was disclosed that the approach will be patterned after the system being implemented at both the University of Guam and Guam Community College.

Hart said the new system will bring fairness and address disparities in the compensation of NMC faculty members.

"This is more of a recognition of our faculty members, especially those who have been in the institution for many years and yet are earning less," said Hart.

Hart vowed that NMC will look for ways and move forward with the plan even if its budget proposal is shot down by the Legislature.

The Board of Regents approved Wednesday to adjust personnel salaries to or above a level equal to 85 percent of the average of its peer institutions. The present wages of employees were described as uncompetitive, contributing to the difficulty of hiring needed personnel.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 1st birthday KarieAnnie Catalla Ngeskebe! May the Lord up above bless you on this day and guide you always. With bundle of love and blessing from Daddy Peter, Mommy Karen, big sister Ki'ilani, Grandpas and Grandmas, Nina Daisy (Guam), godparents, and families.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DRIVE AWAY A WINNER!

JUST GAS, SCRATCH & WIN INSTANTLY

With your Lucky 7 Card, fill up with 5 gallons in gas and get a scratch card to win fun and exciting prizes! Every card is sure to win. Gas up now and win!

Prizes include: iPad minis, Samsung Galaxy Tablets, cell phones, headsets, day guest passes to PIC, Joeten grocery certificates, pizzas from Revolving Restaurant 360, gas, Lucky 7 points, and much more!

Rules apply. See store for details. Prizes not exactly as shown. While supplies last.

International Buffet

iSLA CAFE

Every Mondays to Sunday
6:00pm to 9:30pm
Regular price: \$22.00 with 20% local discount
Children 4 to 11 yrs old: \$11.00

Weekend Lobby Food Fair!

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
6:00 - 9:00PM
Food \$1.00, \$2.00 and \$3.00 menu

Business

US companies spend heavily on big mergers in 2014

NEW YORK (AP)—So far, 2014 is looking like the year of the big deal.

Flush with cash and high stock prices, companies are buying up the competition at levels not seen since the dotcom bubble. And with Washington providing more clarity on government spending plans, CEOs are more confident their expansion hopes will pan out—especially if the economy keeps growing.

Many of the acquisitions involve American businesses doing the buying or getting bought by overseas rivals. Global deals are up as well.

In the last month, Comcast has offered to buy Time Warner Cable for \$45 billion. Pharma-

ceutical giant Actavis is buying Forest Laboratories for \$25 billion. And Facebook shocked the technology world by offering \$19 billion for tiny WhatsApp.

Merger-and-acquisition executives say they have expected a pickup in deal activity for a couple of years, given the bull market and economic recovery.

But what prevented the really big transactions was uncertainty about the federal budget, the debt ceiling and the fate of President Obama's Affordable Care Act.

With those issues resolved—at least for now—the way has opened up for bigger, more complex deals.

"The deals we have seen in

the last couple of weeks are that tipping point that we've been waiting for," said Mark Walsh, who heads up the M&A practice at Deloitte Consulting. "There's so much pent-up demand to do a deal now."

U.S. companies announced \$336.13 billion in deals in January and February, according to Dealogic. That's up 31 percent from \$256.21 billion during the same period last year. It's the largest amount spent during the first two months of the year since 2000. Companies worldwide have announced \$569 billion in deals so far this year, the highest level since before the financial crisis.

American companies an-

nounced 1,550 deals in the first two months of 2014, according to Dealogic. While that is down from the last two years, the average transaction size is more than double what it was a year ago.

The high prices reflect companies going on the offensive to boost their earnings. The economy, while growing, still isn't booming. Since the end of the recession, companies have had to act defensively—protecting profits by cutting costs through layoffs or benefit reductions or by moving manufacturing elsewhere.

2-year extension offered for canceled health plans

WASHINGTON (AP)—Warding off the specter of election-year health insurance cancellations, the Obama administration Wednesday announced a two-year extension for individual policies that don't meet requirements of the new health care law.

The decision helps defuse a political problem for Democrats in tough re-election battles this fall, especially for senators who in 2010 stood with President Barack Obama and voted to pass his health overhaul.

The extension was part of a major package of regulations

In an effort to lift earnings and please shareholders, S&P 500 companies have also announced plans for nearly \$1 trillion in buybacks over the next several years, and more than four-fifths of them now issue a dividend, the highest proportion since 1998.

With their tool box nearly depleted, corporations "are looking for that extra bump" in sales now, Walsh said. A lot of Deloitte's M&A business has been with companies "looking to expand their product lines or expand geographies."

Buying Time Warner Cable gives Comcast roughly 30 million customers in markets such as New York City. For Facebook, WhatsApp is an opportunity to buy a fast-growing message service that is popular in emerging markets and Europe. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has said he expects WhatsApp, which currently has 400 million users, to grow to 1 billion users in the near future. Ireland-based Actavis gains both a broader variety of drugs to sell and a larger sales presence in the U.S. with its acquisition of Forest Labs.

policies was one of the most damaging issues in the transition to a new insurance system under Obama's law. The wave of cancellations hit around the time that the new HealthCare.gov website was overwhelmed with technical problems that kept many consumers from signing up for coverage.

Hundreds of pages of provisions affecting insurers, employers and consumers were issued by the Treasury Department and the Department of Health and Human Services. It will likely take days for lawyers and consultants to fully assess the implications.

The latest extension would be valid for policies issued up to Oct. 1, 2016. It builds on an earlier reprieve issued by the White House.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for Terminal Improvements at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Tinian International Airport, Terminal Improvements, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 and must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM on FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2014** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, demolition, building and site improvements and includes concrete foundations, concrete slabs-on-grade, cast-in-place concrete, roof membrane, metal roofing, concrete masonry unit walls, non-structural metal framing, carpentry, gypsum board, ceramic tile, resilient flooring, acoustical ceilings, aluminum doors and frames, aluminum windows, glazing, door hardware, cabinetry, toilet partitions, toilet accessories, signage, flag poles, baggage conveyors, waiting room seating, painting, ventilation, air conditioning, plumbing, electrical lighting and power, complete and ready for use all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from CNMI Capital Improvement Program. The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

The Contract period for construction of the Project in its entirety shall be two hundred seventy (270) calendar days. Liquidated damages in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible", their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the Project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by CNMI Law or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract. A copy of the CNMI Minimum Wage Rate Determination is included in the General Provisions, Section 70-25.

Each Bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the Bid Proposal documents, with submission of their Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Tinian International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. Attendance of the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference date.

Bid Proposals shall be submitted on the Bid Proposal form included in the CD-Rom obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding Bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the Bid Schedule or misentry of the quantity of line items; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the Project Contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said Bids if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the Regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

Each Bidder must supply all information required by the Bid documents and Specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the Specifications. Bid Proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority office at no cost.

A Contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the Specifications. To be eligible for award, each Bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit Bids in response to this Invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, in consideration for an award of any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by either a Bid Bond issued by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, Certified Check, or a Cashier's Check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the Bid amount. Checks shall be made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

The proposed Contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOILO
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: February 11, 2014

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION RATE PROCEEDING DOCKET 13-01

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission [Commission] will conduct a public hearing at **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday March 19, 2014** at the CDA Conference Room, CDA Building, Beach Road, San Jose to receive and consider evidence, discussion and public comment regarding that portion of Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's [CUC] July 5, 2013 petition for rate relief, as amended on November 8, 2013, which requested that the Commission approve a new large commercial customer standby charge. By Decision dated February 5, 2014, the Commission suspended the effectiveness of the proposed charge pursuant to §8432(a) pending further review. The Decision directed CUC to file supplemental testimony regarding: a) a cost analysis of the proposed charge; b) the revenue, which would be produced by the charge; c) comparable charges in similar jurisdictions; d) its impact on large commercial customers; e) CUC's plan to encourage large commercial customers to return to the grid; and f) the loss of revenue, which has resulted from the suspension. CUC has been directed to file this supplemental testimony on or before March 7, 2014. This testimony and the proposed standby charge will be posted on CUC's website for public view and examination. The Commission has directed that special notice be provided to CUC's large commercial customers, which have been identified as being subject to the proposed charge.

THE COMMISSION WELCOMES THE PUBLIC'S ATTENDANCE at the hearing. Public comments will be received at the hearing in accordance with the Commission's Guidelines for Public Comments as adopted on December 10, 2013. Persons who desire to formally participate in the hearing pursuant to 4 CMC § 8409(j) of Public Law 15-35 should on or before March 14, 2014 file with the Commission at the law office of Lillian Tenorio, Esq. on Plata Dr. Chalan Kiya, Saipan [phone: 670-234-7850; email: latlaw@pticom.com] an application and offer of proof in accordance with said section and with Commission Procedural Rule 11(c).

Further information about the public hearing and the public's right to participate and comment may be obtained from Ms. Tenorio's office.

Nation

In populist appeal, Obama spotlights minimum wage

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. (AP)—Mounting a show of support from like-minded governors, President Barack Obama put a spotlight Wednesday on a minimum wage push that Democrats hope will appeal to economically squeezed voters in November's midterm elections.

Standing at the center of a packed college gymnasium, Obama said raising hourly

wages to \$10.10 would pull millions of Americans out of poverty. While one of Obama's top priorities, the proposal is more likely to serve as a rallying cry for Democrats in the approaching election than to be adopted by Congress in the foreseeable future.

In a nod to staunch Republican opposition, Obama urged Americans to demand answers from their lawmakers about

whether they support raising stagnant wages and ask if not, why not?

"Ask them to reconsider. Ask them to side with the majority of Americans," Obama said. "Instead of saying no for once, say yes."

The backdrop as Obama rallied a crowd of 3,000 at Central Connecticut State University: Four Northeastern governors—from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont and Rhode Island—who support Obama's proposal.

More than 20 states have increased their state-level minimum wages, said Labor Secretary Tom Perez, including six

in the year since Obama first called for a federal increase. Democrats believe the push will bolster a populist message about expanding opportunity that they believe offers their best shot at fending off Republicans this November.

As if to underscore how politically charged the issue has already become, Republicans seized on Obama's appearance to accuse him of threatening to obliterate badly needed jobs.

Republicans cite a study from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimating the proposal would cut employment by roughly 500,000 jobs. The White

House disputes that finding, while embracing another finding from the same report that says more than 16.5 million people would see higher earnings by 2016.

"The problem is Republicans in Congress oppose raising the minimum wage. Now I don't know if that's just because I proposed it," Obama said to laughter from the largely supportive crowd. "Maybe I should say I oppose raising the

minimum wage, and they'd vote for it."

Poking fun right back, House Speaker John Boehner's office released a parody "fact sheet" in the style typically used by the White House to outline Obama's proposals.

The headline: "President Obama Offers Plan to Destroy Jobs for Low-Income Americans."

"When folks are still struggling to find work in this economy, why would we make that any harder?" said Boehner spokesman Brendan Buck.

ACROSS THE NATION

NY prosecutor: Bin Laden kin wanted to harm US

NEW YORK (AP)—Osama bin Laden's son-in-law went on trial Wednesday in federal court in Manhattan, where jurors heard him portrayed both as a murderous mouthpiece for al-Qaida and as a target of a prosecution designed to play on fears and resentments from the Sept. 11 attacks. In opening statements, Assistant U.S. Attorney Nicholas Lewin told the jury that bin Laden had summoned Sulaiman Abu Ghaith on the afternoon of Sept. 11, 2001, and asked him to use his oratory skills as the public face of al-Qaida to recruit and inspire recruits to attack the United States again. Abu Ghaith is the highest-ranking al-Qaida figure to face trial on U.S. soil since suicide attackers struck the city's twin towers.

Snow, ice cover will boost Great Lakes levels

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP)—Water levels in the

Great Lakes are expected to continue a steady recovery this year, courtesy of widespread ice cover that is slowing evaporation and snowfall that has approached record amounts in some cities, federal experts said Wednesday. The siege of polar air that has gripped the region this winter has caused the most extensive freeze-over of the lakes since the record-setting year of 1979, when nearly 95 percent of their surface area solidified. On Tuesday, the ice cover reached its highest point since then—91 percent, said George Leshkevich, a physical scientist with the federal Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor.

Century Finance Company, Ltd. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Accountant

Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work-related experience in a financing or commercial/credit loan business. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO and Loan Management Information Systems, MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Finance Company, Ltd. office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, March 17, 2014.

Century Finance Company, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 14-002

Opening Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2014

Closing Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Accountant

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Chief Accountant or designee. May supervise accounting support staff to include; prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Maintains, monitors, and balances assigned funds. Performs professional accounting duties, including but not limited to: project accounting; grants reporting and management; Public Utilities Commission (PUC) compliance reporting; utility rate case data analysis and reporting; general journal entry preparation and posting/analyzing accounts; assisting with annual audits including preparation of audit schedules. Prepares, reviews, and submits a variety of reports, reconciliations, and statements to and from internal departments, financial institutions, and/or Local, State, and Federal agencies. Performs month-end and year-end closing of books of accounts; Prepares analyses of inventory and participates in periodic physical inventories. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION: Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: \$ 34,176.00 to \$55,554.00 per annum.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

POSITION(S): Two (2).

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and four years of professional level accounting or auditing experience. **Knowledge of:** Supervisory principles; Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and applicable laws, rules and regulations; Intermediate mathematics; Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting procedures and principles; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting accounting transactions; Operating a 10-key machine; Preparing and analyzing financial statements and reports; Using computers and related software applications including intermediate to advanced knowledge using MS Excel; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. **Preferred experience/skills:** include recent (within most recent 12 months) project and fund accounting experience, MS Access or other DB application experience, MS Dynamics proficiency, and auditing experience (either external or internal). Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: March 7, 2014
CLOSE DATE: March 14, 2014

POSITION: Cook (Mandarin, Korean, Western)
SALARY: Negotiable

Qualifications:

High school graduate or equivalent required. Formal training/education in culinary arts required. Minimum 2 years of experience in related field preferred. Position may require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment.

OPEN DATE: March 7, 2014
CLOSE DATE: March 14, 2014

POSITION: Server
SALARY: Minimum

Qualifications:

High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in food service preferred. Position may require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. Friendly personality, willingness to serve and a readily smiling individual highly preferred.

OPEN DATE: March 7, 2014
CLOSE DATE: March 14, 2014

POSITION: Lifeguard
SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:

High school graduate or equivalent required. Obtaining a lifeguard certification may be a required for continued employment. Must have friendly and outgoing personality

OPEN DATE: March 7, 2014
CLOSE DATE: March 14, 2014

POSITION: Bellhop
SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:

High school graduate or equivalent required. A valid Drivers License is required. Must be 25 years old or older. Experience as a hotel bellhop/ guest service preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and a ready smile.

OPEN DATE: March 7, 2014
CLOSE DATE: March 14, 2014

POSITION: Mechanic & Electrician,
SALARY: Negotiable

Qualifications:

High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum of two (2) years of formal mechanical experience or mechanical training is required. Two years of experience in related field strongly preferred.

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Team at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266/576.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle/Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

General Maintenance Worker

High school diploma or equivalent with experience in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours.

Housekeeper (2)

High school diploma or GED Certificate. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

Messenger

High school graduate. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Good oral and written communication skills and good driving skills are required. Must provide and maintain own vehicle for work and must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, March 17, 2014.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

World

Russia, West try to hammer out Ukraine diplomacy

PARIS (AP)—The United States and Western diplomats failed to bring Russian and Ukrainian foreign ministers together Wednesday for face-to-face talks on the confrontation in Crimea, even as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry voiced optimism that an exit strategy was possible. “I’d rather be where we are today than where we were yesterday,” he said.

The flurry of diplomatic activity came as NATO punished Russia by suspending military cooperation, and the European Union extended \$15 billion in aid to Ukraine, matching the amount the country’s fugitive president accepted from Moscow to turn his back on an EU trade accord.

After an intense round of diplomacy with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and several European counterparts in Paris, Kerry said the meetings were “very constructive, without promising something that is not defined yet, without raising hopes that are inappropriate to raise.”

“I want to be realistic. This is hard, tough stuff, and a very serious moment,” Kerry said. “I personally feel that I have some-

thing concrete to take back and talk to President Obama about,” he added, without specifying what that was.

Speaking separately after what he called “a very long day” of discussions on Ukraine, Lavrov said the sides agreed to continue talks in coming days “about how we can help in efforts to normalize the situation and overcome the crisis.”

Still, there was no direct meeting between Lavrov and his Ukrainian counterpart, Andriy Deschchytia, though the Ukrainian foreign minister said Kerry asked him to delay his flight home in hopes of getting the two to sit down together.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Deschchytia said he had hoped to brief Lavrov on a Ukrainian plan to offer Crimea more autonomy while still claiming it within the country’s borders. Any vote taken toward autonomy would require international observers to replace armed groups in order to work, he said.

“Our position is to use all the peaceful means, all the diplomatic ways to settle the issue without victims and tragedy—and without taking territory

away,” Deschchytia said. “We don’t want war with Russia.”

But Lavrov was not ready to meet.

Leaving the French Foreign Ministry, he was asked by reporters if he had met with his Ukrainian counterpart. “Who is it?” Lavrov answered. “I didn’t see anybody.”

At a news conference at the U.S. ambassador’s residence, Kerry played down the failure, saying there had been “zero expectation” of that, though U.S. officials said that is still the goal.

Kerry also repeated the West’s demand that Russia pull its forces from the Crimean Peninsula, saying “Russia’s violation of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity has actually united the world in support of the Ukrainian people.”

On the ground in Ukraine, meanwhile, volatility reigned. A special U.N. envoy visiting Crimea came under threat by armed men who forced him to leave the region. And hundreds of demonstrators—many chanting “Russia! Russia!”—stormed a government building in eastern Ukraine, spreading concern that turmoil could engulf other Russian-dominated

parts of Ukraine.

Ukraine’s prime minister told the AP in his first interview since taking office that he still feared Russian President Vladimir Putin might attempt more land grabs: “Mr. President,” Arseniy Yatsenyuk said, “stop this mess.”

But most of the bargaining chips belonged to Russia, whose troops are fanned out across Crimea and control most of its strategic facilities.

Lavrov, speaking in Spain before meeting with Kerry, warned against Western support of what Moscow views as a coup in Ukraine, saying that could encourage government takeovers elsewhere.

“We must understand that a bad example is infectious,” he said.

While Russia expressed openness to international mediation, a major sticking point has been Moscow’s refusal to recognize Ukraine’s new leaders much less sit down at the table with them.

NATO tried to apply pressure on Moscow in its own talks with Russia in Brussels.

The alliance’s secretary-general, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, said ambassadors for the 28 member states decided after a meeting with their Russian counterpart to suspend plans for a joint mission as well as all civilian and military meetings.

Rasmussen said that because of Russia’s military action in the Crimean Peninsula, “the entire range of NATO-Russia cooperation (is) under review.” Rasmussen said NATO will continue to meet with Moscow

at the political level but insisted that halting all other cooperation “sends a very clear message to Russia.”

One key piece of leverage that the West has over nearly bankrupt Ukraine: hard cash. The three months of protests that triggered Ukraine’s crisis erupted when President Viktor Yanukovych accepted \$15 billion in aid from Putin in exchange for dropping an economic partnership deal with the EU. On Wednesday, the EU matched the aid—which the Russians withdrew after Yanukovych’s downfall—and the U.S. topped that up with an additional \$1 billion.

Meanwhile, Ukraine’s former prime minister—the heroine of Ukraine’s 2004-2005 Orange Revolution and Yanukovych’s arch-enemy—called on the West to force Russia to withdraw troops from Crimea.

Julia Tymoshenko, who was released from prison two weeks ago, said any negotiations about Ukraine’s future should be conducted directly between the U.S., the EU and Russia—and insisted no compromises should be made to appease Moscow.

“We believe that the aggressor must leave without any conditions,” Tymoshenko told the AP in an interview.

The EU on Wednesday also froze the assets of 18 people held responsible for misappropriating state funds in Ukraine, echoing similar action in Switzerland and Austria.

Russia has suggested that it will meet any sanctions imposed by Western governments

with a tough response, and Putin has warned that those measures could incur serious “mutual damage.”

In Crimea, U.N. special envoy Robert Serry was threatened by 10 to 15 armed men as he was leaving naval headquarters in Crimea, said U.N. deputy secretary-general Jan Eliasson. When the men ordered Serry to go to the airport, Serry refused—but then found himself trapped because his car was blocked, Eliasson said.

The Dutch envoy was later spotted by reporters in a coffee shop, as men in camouflage outfits stood outside. He got into a van with the men, and was taken to Simferopol airport.

Later, an AP reporter found Serry in the business class lounge of the Simferopol airport.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israeli naval raid nabs rocket shipment

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli naval forces on Wednesday seized a ship laden with rockets allegedly bound for militants in the Gaza Strip, and officials accused Iran of orchestrating the delivery in an elaborate 5,000-mile (8,000-kilometer) journey that included covert stops across the region. The Syrian-made M-302 rockets would have put Israel’s biggest cities well within range of Gaza, where militants already possess thousands of less powerful rockets. During eight days of fighting in 2012, armed groups fired 1,500 rockets into Israel, including several that reached the outskirts of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The naval raid, which took place in the Red Sea hundreds of miles from Israel, came as Iran showed off powerful new ballistic missiles equipped with multiple warheads. The arms bust drew renewed Israeli calls for world powers to toughen their stand in negotiations over the Iranian nuclear program.

Pope defensive on sex abuse as commission lags

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis is coming under increasing criticism that he simply doesn’t get it on sex abuse. Three months after the Vatican announced a commission of experts to study best practices on protecting children, no action has been taken, no members appointed, no statute outlining the commission’s scope approved. Francis hasn’t met with any victims, hasn’t moved to oust a bishop convicted in 2012 of failing to report a suspected abuser, and on Wednesday insisted that the church had been unfairly attacked on abuse, using the defensive rhetoric of the Vatican from a decade ago.

Death & Funeral Announcement †LYDIA BABAUTA CAMACHO

Born on May 14, 1947 and was called to her eternal rest on March 03, 2014 (Monday) at the age of 66

In Her Death She Now Joins Her:

Parents: †Albert Cruz & †Rosa Pasqual Babauta

Parents-In-Law: †Joaquin Fausto & †Maria Rios Camacho

Brothers/Sisters: †Ana P. Cordova/Calistro P. Cordova/Isidro P. Babauta/

Ignacio P. Babauta/Susanna P. Babauta/†Lydia P. Babauta/

David P. Babauta

Grand Daughter: †Jennifer T. Camacho

Brothers/Sisters-In-Law: †Jose R./†Vicente R. & †Maria R. Camacho /Francisco R. Camacho/†Magdalena R.

Camacho/†Felipe R. Camacho/†Ramon R. & †Clara T. Camacho/†Josephine C. & †Francisco San

Nicolas/†Guillermo R. & †Basilisa T. Camacho/†Julian R. & †Sabina A. Camacho/†Joaquin R. &

†Gabriela B. Camacho/†Felisa B. Babauta

Her Memory Will Forever Live In The Hearts Of Her:

Husband: Eulogio Rios Camacho

Children: Edwin B. & Fang Camacho (Jennifer/Albert/Alicia/Kitty/Jackie)

Marie C. & Jesus S. Santos (Jesse & Ciama (Jessel)/Edwin & Charliebel/Ally/Jason/Eleria)

Joaquin B. & Ramona S. Camacho (Elowena/Bryce)

Ignacio B. & Cynthia C. Camacho (Suanna/Sabrina)

Rosalita C. & Peter T. San Nicolas (Darrell/Deeana/Mikela)

Calley B. & Noriko F. Camacho (Nodia)

Isidro B. Camacho

She is additionally survived by numerous cousins, nephews, nieces, godchildren, relatives and will be greatly missed by many families and friends.

Rosary is being said every evening at 7:00pm at San Roque Church.

Daily Mass is being offered as follows:

Tanapag Church:

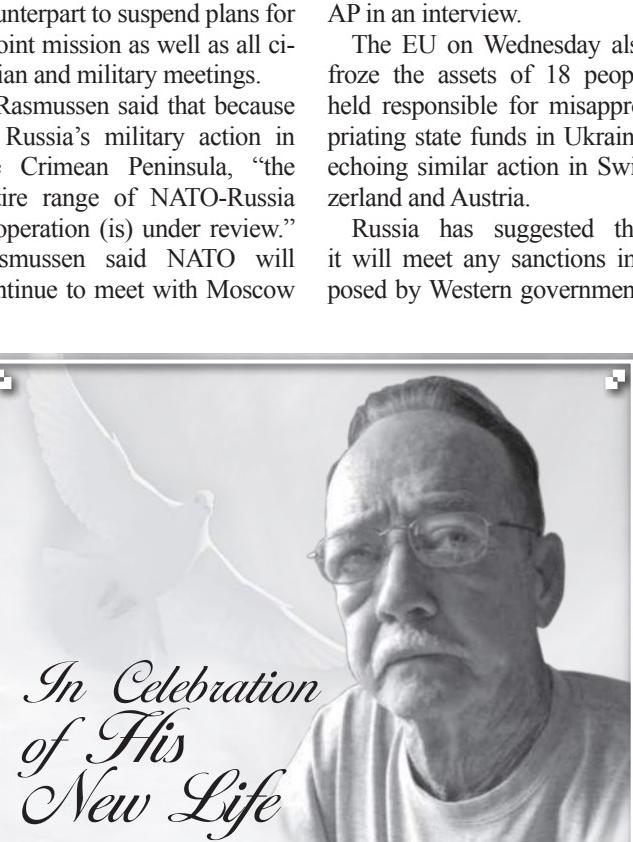
Friday, March 7th 6:00pm
Saturday, March 8th 6:00pm
Monday, March 10th 6:00pm

San Roque Church:

Sunday March 9th 9:00am

On Tuesday, March 11, 2014 our beloved Mother will be escorted from CHCC at 7:30am to San Roque Church for responso, rosary, and viewing. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by Interment Service at San Roque Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.
Thank You and Si Yu’us Ma’ase.
From The Family



Elgia Uriah Petty
Better known as Sam
DOB: September 16, 1939
DOD: March 1, 2014

On Friday, March 7, 2014, there will be a celebration of life gathering at VFW from 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm.

Sea burial will be held on March 8, 2014 at Pacific Marine 1, Seaplane Ramp.

Off The Wall

California gold discovery spurs rush of theories

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Word last week that a Northern California couple found \$10 million in gold coins while walking their dog has set off a Gold Rush of theories over who left behind all that loot.

Minnesota farmer creates a granddaddy of a snowman

GILMAN, Minn. (AP)—A farmer in central Minnesota has created a towering tribute to winter's excess.

Greg Novak says he's invested hundreds of hours to build a 50-foot snowman named "Granddaddy" that he hopes will wake onlookers from their winter doldrums. And he admits it has some neighbors questioning his sanity.

Granddaddy began to take shape earlier this winter when the Gilman farmer needed to move mounting snow piles away from his greenhouses.

"As long as you're moving it, might as well do something practical with it," Novak said.

Friends and family pitched in to help with Granddaddy, or to do farm chores while Novak worked on building the snowman. Novak used skid loaders to pile snow and a silage blower to direct snow into stacked cylinders, the St. Cloud Times reported.

One is that Jesse James' gang deposited it in hopes of someday financing a second Civil War. Another postulates that the gold originally belonged to gentleman robber Black Bart, who wrote poetry when he wasn't

sticking up stagecoaches.

But the theory gaining the most traction this week is that the hoard is made up of most of the \$30,000 in gold coins that Walter Dimmick stole from the U.S. Mint in San Francisco in 1901. The coins were never recovered.

That theory, from fishing guide and amateur coin historian Jack Trout, set off a flurry of calls to the U.S. Mint after it was reported by the San Francisco Chronicle on Monday.

The Northern California couple's coins are called the Saddle Ridge Hoard after the area of

the couple's land where they were discovered.

"We do not have any information linking the Saddle Ridge Hoard coins to any thefts at any United States Mint facility," mint officials said in a statement issued Tuesday.

Although Trout acknowledges he can't prove his theory, he still thinks he's right.

"There is no real direct proof, but I am getting more research in on this," he told The Associated Press by phone Tuesday from Chile, where he lives part of the year.

Dimmick is said to have spir-

ited six sealed bags—each filled with 250 \$20 gold pieces—out of the mint, where he was the chief cashier.

The Saddle Ridge Hoard contains 1,400 \$20 gold pieces, 50 \$10 gold pieces and four \$5 gold pieces, with a range of dates beginning in 1847 and extending to 1894.

Don Kagan is a rare coin dealer who represents the couple who stumbled upon the coins, which have a face value of about \$28,000. He said the San Francisco Mint heist was one of the first possibilities he and his staff checked out.

Even if the mint had coins on hand covering a span of 47 years, which is unlikely, those in the hoard include some so badly worn that they wouldn't have been there, said David McCarthy, Kagan's chief numismatist.

Another coin, dated 1876, was in such pristine condition that it wouldn't have been there either.

"It doesn't have a single marking on it," McCarthy said. "That coin couldn't have sat in a bag in the San Francisco Mint and looked like that. It would have had what we call 'bag marks' all over it."

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

City to strike ban on being willfully annoying

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP)—It's soon expected to be OK to be willfully annoying in Grand Rapids. The Grand Rapids Press reports that the City Commission is nixing a 38-year-old section of city code that states "no person shall willfully annoy another person." City Attorney Catherine Mish recommended repealing the language, saying the wording is "unconstitutional in terms of being vague" and "simply unenforceable." A final decision is expected March 11. Even with the change, related crimes such as obstructing someone in a public place or assault would still be on the books. Mish has been scouring city code to find archaic rules.

Philly reporter hit with wall of snow from plow

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A Philadelphia television news reporter covering the aftermath of a snowstorm in New Jersey has gotten pelted by snow from a passing plow. WTXF-TV's Steve Keeley was blasted with a wall of snow from the plow Monday morning while reporting live from the side of a road in Woodstown. The station posted a video showing Keeley never lost his footing. It says it's the 15th storm Keeley has reported on this winter and he's clearly a pro because he "didn't even miss a beat." Keeley says he was 20 feet from the road, which shows how far plows can throw snow at high speeds. He jokes a reporter from another TV station must've been driving the plow.

Mass. man's speeding excuse? I won the lottery!

HINGHAM, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts man busted for speeding had a pretty good excuse when he was pulled over: He had just won a big lottery prize and was on his way to collect his cash. It turns out Thursday was 22-year-old Scott Lowe's lucky day in more ways than one. The officer who pulled him over in Hingham issued a verbal warning and urged him to drive safely. Lowe, of Rockland, told the officer he was speeding because he had won \$50,000 on a scratch-off ticket and was on his way to Massachusetts State Lottery headquarters in Braintree to collect his winnings. WCVB-TV reports that police say Lowe was shaking, and showed the officer his winning ticket. After the warning, he went on his way and claimed his prize.

In Loving Memory of Antonia Margarita Manglona Iglesias

December 11, 1957 – March 02, 2014

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:

Parents: †Anselmo Celis Iglesias and †Antonia Manglona Iglesias
Mother In-Law: †Maria A. Balbin
Brothers and Sisters: †Anselmo M. Iglesias, †Luis M. Iglesias, †Ignacia I. Camacho, †Antonio Camacho, †Maria M. Iglesias
Brothers In-Law: †Rudy A. Balbin, †James Sarmiento, †Guillermo M. Benavente

Her Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts Of Her:

Husband: Ernie A. Balbin
Children and grandchildren:
Velma I. and Eric Mafnas (Elden Michael, Eric John, Tahani, Jose, Kiara, Marian, Juana)
Bruce Jarette M. Iglesias (Bethany, Brooke)
Ernishya D.I. Balbin and Brandon Cepeda

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:

Joaquin M. and Jesusa P. Iglesias and children
Maria R. Iglesias and children
Andresina I. Benavente and children
Matilde I. and David S. Celis and children
Rosa I. and James Heil and children
Carmen I. Lizama and Steve Schram and children
Merced I. and Raymond P. DelaCruz and children
Thomas M. and Elisa M. Iglesias and children

Parents In-Law:

Bruno Balbin and Consolacion L. Balbin
Brothers and Sisters In-Law:
Nenita B. Smith and family
Fred A. Balbin and family
Debra B. and Pete Sarmiento and family
Allan Mark and Jackie Balbin
Tina A. Balbin and family
Brenda Balbin-Adams and family
Felipe Eric Lopez and family
Jason Balbin and family
Genadine Balbin and family

She will also be missed by numerous nieces, nephews, godchildren, family and friends.

Mass of Intentions are being offered each evening at 6:00pm at San Antonio Church.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, March 10, 2014. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel, Garapan, Saipan at 9:00am to San Antonio Church. Responso Service will be at 9:30am followed by Holy Rosary at 9:45am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by interment service at Mt. Carmel cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Thank You, Si Yu'u Ma'ase, Oloomway, Salamat Po.

Please join us in prayers,

Ernie A. Balbin
Children and Family



Science & Technology

Apple drives into car stereos with CarPlay integration of Siri, iPhone

By JEREMY C. OWENS
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

CUPERTINO, Calif.—Apple announced Monday that select car manufacturers will soon begin offering CarPlay, the tech giant's attempt to fully integrate the iPhone and its Siri voice-activation system into the dashboard of users' automobiles.

While many new cars and aftermarket stereos include Bluetooth capability that can connect to drivers' smartphones and pipe calls, music or map directions through the car speakers, CarPlay is a more integrated experience that more closely resembles Apple's iOS mobile operating systems and makes access to Siri automatic in a similar fashion to how users cue the female voice on their iPhones.

"CarPlay has been designed from the ground up to provide drivers with an incredible experience using their iPhone in the car," Apple marketing executive



WAYNE CUNNINGHAM/CNET

No matter the car brand, the CarPlay interface will look basically the same.

Greg Joswiak said in Monday's announcement. "iPhone users always want their content at their fingertips and CarPlay lets drivers use their iPhone in the car with minimized distraction."

CarPlay will roll out this week in cars from Ferrari, Mercedes-Benz and Volvo, Apple said, and 13 other car manufacturers expect to feature the technology in the future, including Ford, GM, Honda and Toyota. Silicon Valley's only automobile manufacturer, Tesla Motors, was not included in Monday's list of partner companies, despite recent reports of communication between the two companies.

CarPlay, originally announced at Apple's 2013 WWDC event in San Francisco as iOS in the Car, will be offered in select 2014 automobile models and will work with the iPhone 5 and newer models.

Drivers will be able to access several features through CarPlay, with notifications vocalized through Siri and drivers

able to respond with voice commands. Apple's will highlight its own offerings in CarPlay instead of third-party applications; for instance, Apple's mapping application will be highlighted on the dashboard, but Google Maps will not be accessible.

Google, which recently announced its own similar initiative for the Android mobile operating system dubbed the Open Automotive Alliance, declined a request for comment Monday.

Apple will feature its iTunes Radio streaming-music platform in addition to offering integration with Spotify and iHeartRadio; noticeably absent from that list is Pandora, the Oakland streaming-radio pioneer that has made strong efforts for automobile integration. Pandora has been able to withstand the competition from Apple's iTunes Radio since the service launched last fall, announcing a growing user base and listenership.

CarPlay, originally announced at Apple's 2013 WWDC event in San Francisco as iOS in the Car, will be offered in select 2014 automobile models and will work with the iPhone 5 and newer models.

Drivers will be able to access several features through CarPlay, with notifications vocalized through Siri and drivers

TECH Q&A

Windows 7 or 8 in place of XP?

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I see you're recommending Windows 7 for Windows XP users when Microsoft stops providing security updates for XP in April. Are you aware that Microsoft's mainstream support for Windows 7 ends next January? Extended support will go to 2020.

Although Windows 8 and 8.1 are radically different, they have an additional three years of mainstream and extended support.

Windows 8.1 allows you to

return to the desktop screen we're all used to.

I think that sooner or later many will want to use the touch-screen interface on Windows 8 with their smartphones and tablet computers.—Dave Dworkin, Minneapolis

ANSWER: Familiarity with Windows 8 is not a skill that will transfer to most smartphone or tablet computers today, because nearly all of them use the Google Android or Apple iOS operating systems. Microsoft's market share in smartphones is 3.9 percent to-

day, although growing.

Windows 8.1 does not return the user to the full Windows 7 interface. If it did, there would be far fewer complaints.

People are voting with their dollars: Windows 8 and 8.1 are used by 10.6 percent of PCs, while Windows 7 is used by 47.5 percent.

Windows 7 users will be well-served by Microsoft's extended support that includes security updates through 2020. The passing of mainstream support doesn't really matter.



I think people using Windows XP are already facing enough change with the leap ahead to newer, more full-featured versions of Windows. They shouldn't have to learn the radically different Windows 8 and 8.1 as well, particularly when that user interface may soon change. There are rumors that Microsoft's pending Windows 8.1 update may

look and act more like traditional Windows. We'll have to wait and see.

Q: I read your column about credit card security, and I don't understand why users

don't have a fingerprint option. I understand it wouldn't solve all identity theft, but I believe it would take a big chunk out of it.

I have seen fingerprint devices in banks, so the technology is available. While I can see why some people don't want their fingerprints on file, I think a lot of us would like the assurance that only our fingers could do the buying.—Ray Omdahl, Green Valley, Ariz.

A: Using fingerprint identification for financial transactions sounds good until you think about the ramifications. If somebody steals your credit

card number, you can cancel the account. But if somebody steals your fingerprint, then that form of ID will have been compromised forever, and any accounts you have that use that fingerprint will be vulnerable.

You could, of course, change all your accounts to use a print from a different finger, then hope that fingerprint will never be stolen.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.





FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Memory of a Life so beautifully lived, a Heart so deeply loved

†Naomi Therese DeLeon Guerrero Benjamin

“Omi”

Please join us in prayer as we remember our beloved †Omi on the First Anniversary of her new life in Heaven. Mass of intention will be offered daily at 6 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning Saturday, March 8th through Sunday, March 16th.

With humble and sincere appreciation for your presence, your thoughts, and your prayers,

Nick, Elaine, and Family

Woman seeks way to shed shell of her former self

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: As a child, I was sexually, physically and mentally abused. As an adult, I suffered several miscarriages and two of my children died as infants. I have two living children, ages 9 and 16. It should be no surprise that I turned to food for comfort; I ate myself to a whopping 420 pounds.

After my marriage ended in a bitter divorce, I decided it was time for a complete makeover. I have lost more than 200 pounds. Because of my weight loss, I have gained better health, more energy, a better outlook on life—and almost 36 pounds of baggy skin. With this much excess skin, I'm sure you can imagine that I bring a whole new meaning to the word "skinny."

Insurance will not help with skin removal. Burn centers use skin from cadavers, so I can't donate it to a good cause. I view myself as an overcomer of many things. I just need assistance in overcoming this oversized birthday suit. Can you please advise?

LEFT HANGING IN COLORADO

DEAR LEFT HANGING: I addressed your question to prominent Los Angeles plastic surgeon Joel Aronowitz, who suggests you start calling around to universities that offer plastic surgery residencies. It's possible a resident could perform your surgery under the supervision of an experienced attending physician and you would pay a lower rate for the procedure than you would be charged by a private physician.

He also told me that insurance should pay for the excision of skin in areas where it overlaps with other skin because it could be medically necessary if it causes rashes or infections that are giving you problems. If this is documented by an experienced plastic surgeon, those areas of your body might be covered by your insurance.

Many people finance their plastic surgeries through companies that specialize in this. The doctor's patient coordinator can direct you to one that works with the practice. However, I would advise you to wait until you have lost ALL of the weight you intend to before getting anything done.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: About 10 years ago I became involved with a man I later found out was married. It was hard for me, but I ended the relationship and ceased all contact with him because I didn't want to be the cause of a broken family.

Since then, I no longer think of myself as a good person, Abby. I can't forget that I was the "other woman," and I feel horrible about it.

I have tried my best to "keep my nose clean." I returned to college to complete a degree, and I avoid the dating scene. I graduated with good grades, but with all the free time I have now, I realize how lonely I am.

The majority of my friends are married or in long-term relationships. I visit with them less and less because it reminds me of my aching to have a special someone. I'm tired of hating myself and feeling lonely, but I'm afraid I'll mess up again. Do you have any advice?

MISERABLE IN KILLEEN, TEXAS

DEAR MISERABLE: Yes. Please stop feeling guilty and flogging yourself for what happened. In a sense, you were as much a victim of this cheater as his wife was. Instead, thank your lucky stars that he didn't waste more of your time.

While I understand why you'd question your judgment or have some trust issues, by avoiding all contact with men, you have gone too far. If necessary, talk this through with a religious adviser or a licensed mental health professional. If you do, it will help you more quickly get on with your life.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Dear Abby

Life & Style

Idina Menzel, 'Frozen' heat up pop charts

NEW YORK (AP)—Tony-winning Idina Menzel—or Adele Dazeem if you're John Travolta—is enjoying massive success with "Let It Go" from the animated film "Frozen," but the entertainer is still perplexed that she's finally triumphing on the pop charts with a show tune-esque track.

"I've had a lot of self-introspection about this. This business is so hard, especially the music business, and I've tried so hard to crossover, to convince people just because I was in a Broadway show I didn't have the street cred to be a rock or a pop singer," she said in a recent interview. "And then the one time I have it, it's the arrangement from the Disney movie."

"I'm singing at the Oscars—I've never sang at the Grammys," Menzel added, laughing.

Menzel's musical moment grew even stronger when "Let It Go" won best original song at Sunday's Academy Awards (the Oscar went to the songwriters and producers, Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez). The song has sold close to 1.5 million tracks and is a Top 20 hit on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. The "Frozen" album, a platinum success, is the soundtrack to spend the most time at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart with five weeks and counting; it re-



AP This Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2014 photo shows Tony Award winning actress, singer and songwriter, Idina Menzel, in New York.

cently beat the record set by the "Titanic" soundtrack, which featured Celine Dion's epic, Oscar-winning "My Heart Will Go On."

"I've had ups and downs ... and I'm aware of when something's happening and has an energy of its own," said Menzel, who voices the lead character Elsa in the film, which won the best animated feature Oscar. "I'm aware enough to know of something special and to try and be in the moment."

Menzel is having more than a moment in music though, thanks to Travolta, who uttered

"Adele Dazeem" at the Oscars instead the singer's name. He has since apologized.

But Slate magazine created the ultrapopular "Travoltified" tool, where you can put in your name and see what Travolta would call you, and it has been dominating on Facebook and Twitter this week (side note: Travolta would call himself "Jan Thozomas.")

But after that fades, Menzel still has "Let It Go," which is having a pop culture moment because of the thousands of videos posted of young girls and boys—and some adults—sing-

ing covers of the song. Cutely, Menzel took her younger sister, a second grade teacher, to the Oscars as her date ("Frozen" is about two sisters who are best friends, but have to keep distance because of Elsa's uncontrollable powers).

Menzel's song has even eclipsed Demi Lovato's version of "Let It Go"—technically the "single version." Disney Music Group president Ken Bunt said he's not surprised Menzel's song has become more successful commercially, and adds that the soundtrack is a winner because the film plays like a cartoon musical.

"The songs are part of the storytelling. They're helping to tell the story of the film and I think that's different than what we've seen in the last 15-plus years in animated movies," Bunt said.

Menzel, who has released three albums, said some members of her team want her to capitalize on her recent pop star fame: "I'd like to, but also, that's the trap."

"Like, 'I better get in there and oh, make an album now. I have some success and attention,'" she recalled.

The 42-year-old does plan to record more music, but right now she's focused on "If/Then," the new Broadway musical she stars in. She will play the role of Elizabeth, a women returning to New York City to rebuild her life after a divorce, and she's been rehearsing for weeks at the Richard Rodgers Theatre, where she has nicely decorated room—or mini apartment—set up to help make her comfortable since the show begins previews Wednesday and officially opens March 30.

Kristin Chenoweth says she suffers from asthma

NEW YORK (AP)—Kristin Chenoweth is ready to tell the world she suffers from asthma. The Tony Award-winning actress with the powerful voice says she's suffered with the respiratory disorder for more than a decade.

"I haven't really discussed the fact that I do suffer from asthma," Chenoweth told The Associated Press last week. "I kept getting sick and couldn't figure out why I couldn't get my breath... that's kind of my asthma journey, if you will."

But Chenoweth was not correctly diagnosed for a few years. The entire time she did the smash Broadway musical, "Wicked," when she originated the role of Glinda, she thought she was suffering from bronchitis and other respiratory issues.

"It was only after going to L.A. to do 'Bewitched,' and 'The West Wing' that I really got sick. But I wasn't diagnosed with asthma," Chenoweth recalls. "It wasn't until I was doing the television series, 'Push-

ing Daisies,' that my doctor in Oklahoma diagnosed me."

Her doctor told her she needed to carry an inhaler at all times so she could breathe. That diagnosis has changed her life, as well as affecting her confidence.

When she last appeared on Broadway in the 2010 revival of



"Promises, Promises," Chenoweth recalls a scary encounter. "I was onstage, literally in the second act in a pretty dramatic scene, I can literally feel it coming on, and I remember thinking, 'How am I going to deal with it? How am I going to get my breath? How am I going to get offstage? How am I going to get to my inhaler?' Luckily I found a spot where it would make sense for me to exit and my dresser was there with an

inhaler."

Recently, Chenoweth did a public service announcement called "Know Your Count," urging sufferers who use an inhaler to make sure it includes a dose counter.

"I've used an inhaler, and didn't understand why it wasn't working," Chenoweth recalls. "I wasn't getting any relief because it was empty. That's why the dose counters are so great. When it comes to having usages left, it's time to get another inhaler."

The "Know Your Count" campaign is being funded by Teva Respiratory, which makes inhalers with counters. Chenoweth is a paid spokeswoman for Teva Respiratory.

Despite having asthma, Chenoweth has kept busy. Later this month she'll appear in the 100th episode of "Glee," while next month her latest film, the animated, "Rio 2" premieres. Then in May, the singer takes to the stage at Carnegie Hall, her inhaler certainly nearby.

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POMPEII [CC,DV] (PG-13)

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POMPEII 3D [CC,DV] (PG-13)

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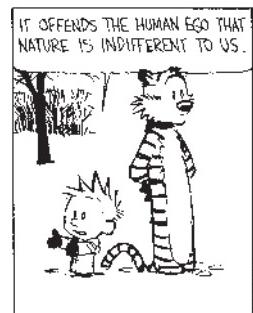
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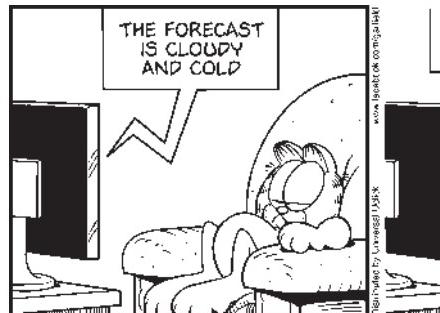


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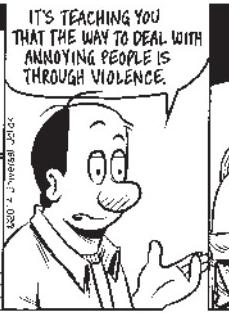
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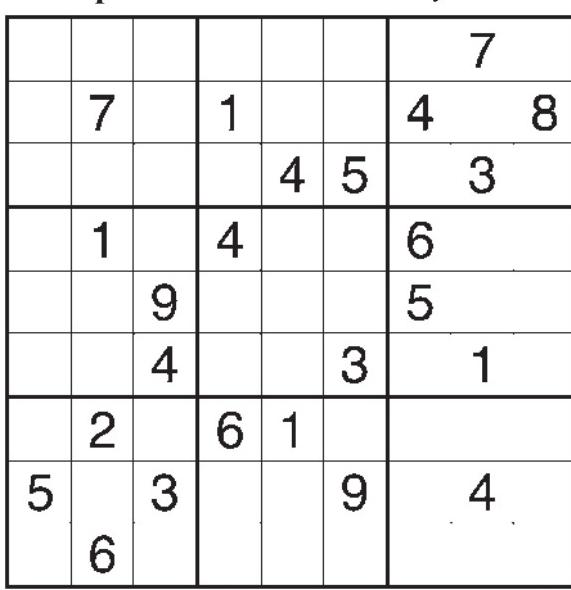
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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	5	3	2	6	9	7	4	1
6	7	9	4	5	1	8	2	3
4	1	2	3	8	7	6	5	9
1	8	4	7	3	2	9	6	5
7	9	6	5	4	8	1	3	2
3	2	5	1	9	6	4	7	8
5	6	7	8	1	3	2	9	4
9	4	1	6	2	5	3	8	7
2	3	8	9	7	4	5	1	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★

3/07

WONDERWORD

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEM ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SOUTHERN ACCENTS

By DAVID OUELLET

Solution: 10 letters

G	O	I	D	C	K	A	N	E	V	O	W	E	L
N	E	R	P	C	O	R	I	N	L	A	N	D	S
A	O	O	I	P	I	A	R	K	S	G	O	V	(E)
W	E	H	R	G	I	G	S	I	A	M	L	L	(N)S
T	T	L	E	G	I	S	O	T	M	N	L	I	(O)A
R	N	R	O	N	I	N	S	O	A	A	S	I	(S)R
A	O	R	I	E	U	A	C	I	Y	L	I	A	F
N	M	A	E	J	R	G	H	U	S	O	C	M	P
S	D	I	A	T	R	C	A	S	L	S	N	A	F</

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Blazers rout Hawks 102-78; Korver's streak ends

PORTRALD, Ore. (AP)—Nicolas Batum had 14 points and a career-high 18 rebounds and the Portland Trail Blazers routed Atlanta 102-78, a loss that marked the end of Hawks guard Kyle Korver's NBA-record streak of 127 games with a 3-pointer.

Korver had surpassed Dana Barros' record of 89 straight, set from 1994-96, earlier this season. He was 0 for 5 from 3-point range against the Blazers.

Portland, which led by as many as 29 points, has won six of its last seven games while keeping pace as one of the teams battling for the top four seeds in the West.

The Hawks have lost four straight and 12 of their last 13 as they fight to stay in the Eastern Conference playoff picture.

Batum has had at least 11 rebounds in his last three games, and he has seven double-doubles this season. Mo Williams added 15 points off the bench for Portland, which had six players in double figures.

Cartier Martin had 16 points off the bench for Atlanta.

Portland is coming off a 107-106 loss to the Lakers on Monday that snapped a five-game winning streak.

All-Star Damian Lillard started for the Blazers despite missing practice because of a stomach bug, but the Blazers were still without forward Thomas Robinson, who has a sore left knee.

Portland also was without forward Joel Freeland because of a right knee injury.

All-Star forward Paul Millsap missed his fifth straight game for the Hawks because of a right knee contusion. His absence hurts Atlanta, which is already without big men Al Horford and Gustavo Ayon for the season.

Lillard's 3-pointer put the Blazers up 20-17 in the first quarter. Dorell Wright made a 3-pointer and two of three free throws to give the Blazers a 29-19 lead going into the second.

Portland pushed the lead to 42-28 on Wesley Matthew's 3-pointer midway through the second quarter. Batum made it 51-33 with a 3-pointer late in the half, and the Blazers went to the break with a 56-38 advantage.

The Hawks struggled in the first half, shooting just 25 percent (11 of 44) from the floor for their lowest first-half percentage of the season.

Portland forward LaMarcus Aldridge was also having a tough start, going 0 for 6 from the floor with three rebounds. The three-time All-Star went into the game averaging 23.7 points and 11.2 rebounds.

LaMarcus Aldridge's jumper—his first basket from the field—put the Blazers up 68-46 in the third quarter. He finished with 12 points.

Will Barton's 3-pointer



AP

Atlanta Hawks forward Mike Scott, right, plays tight defense on Portland Trail Blazers forward LaMarcus Aldridge during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

pushed Portland's lead to 87-60 in the second half and the Hawks could never catch up.

Bobcats 109, Pacers 87

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Al Jefferson scored 34 points in Charlotte's victory over the Indiana Pacers that gave the Bobcats their fifth straight home win.

Jefferson was 16 of 25 from the field and had eight rebounds for the Bobcats (28-33), who equaled their combined win total from the previous two seasons.

Jefferson, whose 38-point, 19-rebound effort Monday night was overshadowed by LeBron James' career-high 61-point outing, has scored at least 20 points in 21 of his last 24 games.

Charlotte became the first team since the 2009-10 Knicks to play the NBA's top four teams in consecutive games. They previously lost to San Antonio, Oklahoma City and Miami on the road.

Evan Turner had 22 points for the Pacers (46-15), who lost back-to-back games for only the second time this season.

Rockets 101, Magic 89

In Orlando, Florida, James Harden scored 31 points, including 25 in the second half, as the Houston Rockets dug out of a double-digit, first-half hole to beat the Orlando Magic.

The Rockets dominated inside, outscoring the Magic 58-26 in the paint. Dwight Howard added 19 points and 14 rebounds in his second trip to Orlando to face his former team.

Houston trailed in the second quarter by as many as 14 points,

but battled back to win for the 13th time in 15 outings.

Arron Afflalo led the Magic with 18 points. The Magic dropped to 0-2 this season against the Rockets. Orlando played without Jameer Nelson and Victor Oladipo. Nelson was out sick and Oladipo missed his first game of the season with soreness in his left ankle.

Warriors 108, Celtics 88

In Boston, Klay Thompson and David Lee scored 18 points each as the Golden State Warriors went a season-high 14 games over .500 with a romp over the Boston Celtics.

The Warriors scored the first six points, led 12-2 with just over five minutes gone and stayed ahead by at least 20 points throughout the second half.

Golden State had an easy time against one of the NBA's worst teams one night after beating one of the best. Thompson's 12-foot turnaround with six-tenths of a second left had given the Warriors a 98-96 win at the Indiana Pacers, the league's top team at home.

Former Celtic Jordan Crawford had 15 points and Stephen Curry added 14 for the Warriors (38-24), who won for the seventh time in nine games.

Kelly Olynyk scored 19 points for Boston (20-41), which dropped its seventh game in its past eight.

Wizards 104, Jazz 91

In Washington, Trevor Ariza scored 26 points and Bradley Beal added 22 as the Washington Wizards took an early lead

and never lost it, shooting 54 percent in a win over the Utah Jazz.

John Wall had 14 points and 10 assists, and Marcin Gortat had 16 points and nine rebounds for the Wizards, who have won seven of eight.

This one was noteworthy if only for substantial contributions from recent additions Drew Gooden and Andre Miller, two thirty-somethings who teamed up for a run that padded the lead in the first half.

Alec Burks scored 19 points, and Trey Burke added 14 to lead the Jazz, who have dropped the first four games of their six-game road trip. Their 7-24 road record is the worst in the Western Conference.

Nets 103, Grizzlies 94

In New York, Joe Johnson scored 21 points, Marcus Thornton came off the bench for 20 as the Brooklyn Nets powered their way above .500 for the first time this season by beating the Memphis Grizzlies.

Deron Williams added 16 points and Paul Pierce 14 for the Nets (30-29), who have won four in a row overall and six straight at home in turning around a turbulent start. Jason Collins played 17 scoreless minutes on the day he signed his second 10-day contract.

The matchup between two of the NBA's best teams in 2014 was a mismatch until the fourth quarter, when the Nets had already led by 30. Memphis fell to 21-9 since Jan. 1, while the Nets' 20-8 record is tops among East teams.

Jon Leuer scored 19 and

Marc Gasol 18 for the Grizzlies, who were without Zach Randolph because of the flu.

Bulls 105, Pistons 94

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, D.J. Augustin scored 26 points off the bench and Joakim Noah had a triple-double as the Chicago Bulls beat the Detroit Pistons.

Noah finished with 10 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists for his sixth career triple-double, including two in the last three games and three in the last month. Taj Gibson added 22 points off the bench, while Jimmy Butler had 18 points and 12 rebounds in Chicago's fifth win in six games.

Greg Monroe led Detroit with 27 points, but the Pistons got only 12 points from their reserves on 5-of-20 shooting.

Knicks 118, Timberwolves 106

In Minneapolis, Carmelo Anthony scored 33 points to help the New York Knicks snap a seven-game losing streak with a victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Tyson Chandler had 15 points and 14 rebounds and Amare Stoudemire added 18 points and eight boards for the Knicks, who had not won since beating New Orleans on Feb. 19.

Kevin Love had 19 points and eight rebounds, but scored just one point in the second half as the Timberwolves returned from a successful West Coast road trip with a thud. Kevin Martin had 12 points on 3-for-10 shooting and the Wolves were 7 for 26 from 3-point range.

Kings 116, Bucks 102

In Milwaukee, Isaiah Thomas scored 25 points and had six assists to lead the Sacramento Kings past the Milwaukee Bucks.

Rudy Gay added 22 points, eight rebounds and five assists, and DeMarcus Cousins had 21 points, 10 rebounds and five assists for the Kings, who won their ninth road game after finishing with an 8-33 record away from home last season.

Sacramento opened its season-high seven-game, 12-day road trip by shooting 52 percent (43-for-82) from the field.

Brandon Knight finished with a team-high 25 points and six assists for Milwaukee, which was trying to win consecutive games for the first time since last March.

Nuggets 115, Mavericks 110

In Denver, Wilson Chandler scored 21 points and Ty Lawson had 20 as the Denver Nuggets snapped a six-game losing streak by beating the Dallas Mavericks.

Kenneth Faried, Randy Foye and J.J. Hickson added 16 points apiece for the Nuggets, who have won all three meetings this season against Dallas. Hickson scored 12 of his points in the fourth quarter to help hold off the Mavericks, who play the Nuggets a final time this season in two weeks in Dallas.

Dirk Nowitzki had 27 points to lead the Mavericks, who lost their third in a row. It's their first three-game losing streak of the season.

Hester says Bears 'parting ways' with him



CHICAGO
(AP)—Record-setting returner Devin Hester said Wednesday he will not be back with the Chicago Bears next season.

"From my knowledge, I know that Chicago wants to go a different route with me," Hester told the NFL Network. "All I can say is thanks to the fans for their support. They've always been great to me. Always been loyal. I couldn't have played for a better city than those guys. At the end of my career, I do want to retire as a member of the Bears."

He added the Bears are "parting ways" with him. The team declined comment.

It looks as if Hester will hit the open market as an unrestricted free agent after an eight-year run with the Bears that produced no shortage of highlights.

He matched Hall of Famer Deion Sanders' NFL record with his 19th return for a touchdown last season, tying his friend and mentor with an 81-yard punt return at Washington in October. It was Hester's 13th punt return for a TD, extending his own record in that category.

He has also returned five kickoffs and one missed field



Record-setting returner Devin Hester says he will not be back with the Chicago Bears next season.

goal for touchdowns.

A three-time Pro Bowl pick, Hester is best remembered by Bears fans for returning the opening kickoff in the 2007 Super Bowl for a touchdown. He ran it back 92 yards for a score in a game the Bears went on to lose to Indianapolis.

Hester endured several lulls on returns during his career, particularly when the Bears tried to make him a receiver.

But he showed some of his old form while focusing solely on returns last season.

His touchdown return against Washington was his first in nearly two years. Hester led the NFL with a career-high 1,436 kick return yards on a league-high 52 tries, and he returned five kickoffs for a team-record 249 yards against Minnesota in September.

Now, it looks like he's

moving on.

Hester expressed interest in reuniting with former coach Lovie Smith in Tampa Bay.

"I look at Lovie as my number one coach right now because he's the one that took a chance on me coming out of the draft," Hester said. "He has all my respect so if he's a guy that is going to shoot at me and want me to come play with him again, my arms are open."

The news from Hester comes on the same day the

Bears terminated the contract of punter Adam Podlesh and signed defensive tackle Jeremiah Ratliff to a two-year deal.

A four-time Pro Bowl pick, Ratliff started four of the five games he played in after signing with Chicago in November. He spent the first six weeks with Dallas on the physically unable to perform list before being released in mid-October, with the Cowboys saying he failed a physical. Ratliff missed the final six

games in 2012 with a groin injury that required surgery.

The Bears, who had one of their worst defensive seasons ever, saw enough good things to bring him back.

Ratliff had 14 1/2 tackles and 1 1/2 sacks with Chicago. In nine seasons with the Cowboys and Bears, he has 331 1/2 tackles and 28 1/2 sacks.

The Bears have signed 10 players who were due to become unrestricted free agents March 11, most of any team in the NFL.

NFL BRIEFS

Source: Broncos expected to release Bailey

DENVER (AP)—The Denver Broncos are expected to release perennial Pro Bowl cornerback Champ Bailey, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Wednesday night. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because no announcement was made. By releasing Bailey, the Broncos would open up cap space with the 12-time Pro Bowl player scheduled to make around \$10 million next season. Bailey was sidelined most of the season by a nagging left foot sprain. The 35-year-old shut-

down corner returned late in the season to help the Broncos advance to the Super Bowl, where they lost 43-8 to Seattle. Bailey was acquired in 2004 by the Broncos in a deal that sent running back Clinton Portis to the Washington Redskins. A message was left with Bailey's agent.

Bills put Toronto series on hold for 1 season

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—The Buffalo Bills have put their annual regular-season game in Toronto on hold for at least one year. The Bills and their Toronto partner, Rogers Communications, announced in a release Wednesday they

have "postponed" the series for one season. The postponement will allow both sides to work on enhancing future games, the release said. The decision comes a little more than a year after the two agreed to renew the series for five years, though 2017, after the original five-year deal expired. Questions were raised regarding the series' future after the Bills 34-31 overtime loss to Atlanta at Toronto on Dec. 1. Following the game, Bills president Russ Brandon questioned whether his team loses a home-field advantage by playing in Toronto. The Bills are 1-5 since the Toronto series began.

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Pistorius' character questioned over gun incident

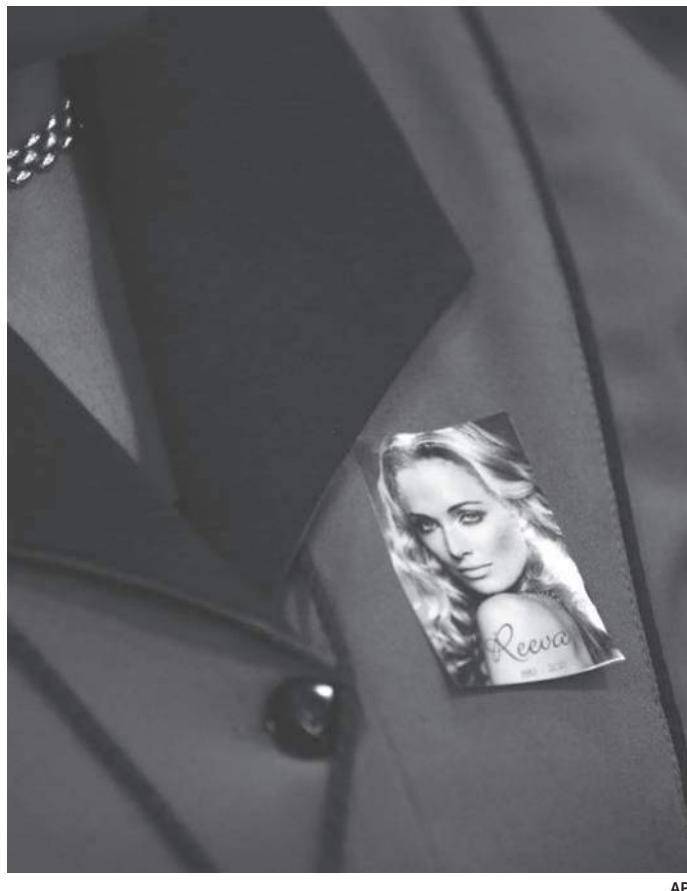
PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)—A month before he fatally shot his girlfriend, Oscar Pistorius cajoled a friend into taking the blame when a gun was accidentally fired under the Johannesburg restaurant table where he and other friends were sitting, according to testimony Wednesday in the double-amputee runner's murder trial.

"Just say it was you. I don't want any tension around me," witness Kevin Lerena remembered Pistorius telling a friend. "There's too much media hype around me."

The testimony by Lerena, a boxer, raises questions about the character of a man who insists he accidentally killed Reeva Steenkamp in his home in the early hours of Feb. 14 last year. Prosecutors allege he intentionally shot 29-year-old Steenkamp, a model and television personality, after a loud argument.

Lerena was the first witness in the globally watched trial, which started Monday, to allow himself to be broadcast on television under a judge's order allowing cameras into the courtroom but preserving the right of some witnesses not to be shown. The boxer wore a suit and leaned forward with an intent expression as he answered lawyers' questions.

His testimony about the restaurant shooting was a re-



A member of the African National Congress Womens League wears a photo of the late Reeva Steenkamp, girlfriend of Oscar Pistorius, pinned to her top as she attends court on the third day of Pistorius' trial at the high court in Pretoria, South Africa, Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

minder of how 27-year-old Pistorius, who ran for South Africa in the 2012 Olympics, once commanded respect among his peers. The boxer described Pistorius as "an icon and a legend in sport" and said he sought advice from the runner about diet and running.

The episode occurred during a busy lunchtime at Tashas restaurant in the swank Melrose Arch area of Johannesburg in January 2013, and relates to three firearms-related charges against Pistorius, in addition to the murder charge. Pistorius pleaded not guilty to

all four charges.

One friend, Darren Fresco, passed his gun to Pistorius under the table and told him that there was a bullet in the chamber, Lerena said. Then a shot went off, puncturing the floor near Lerena's foot, he said.

"There was just complete silence," said Lerena, who described being in shock and having blood where his toe was grazed in the incident. Then, he said, Pistorius apologized, saying: "Are you OK? Is everybody OK?"

Before the restaurant management approached the table, Lerena said, Pistorius asked Fresco to say he was responsible for the gunshot.

Lerena said they paid the bill and left the restaurant and he never spoke about the incident. Two days after Pistorius shot Steenkamp, he said, he woke up to find over 100 missed calls on his telephone as media from around the world tried to contact him to

ask about the gun incident.

Chief defense lawyer Barry Roux attempted to establish it was noisy in the restaurant, which the manager testified was full with over 200 customers, and that Pistorius did not hear Fresco say the gun was "one-up"—or that there was a bullet in the chamber—when he passed it.

But Lerena's testimony that Pistorius asked a friend to "take the rap" wasn't challenged.

"He did say, 'Fresco, take the blame because this could be big,'" Lerena said in court.

The wife of the restaurant manager also said in her brief testimony that the shot went off near to where a child was sitting.

Earlier Wednesday, Roux sought to undermine the prosecution testimony of a couple who say they heard a woman's screams and gunfire the night that Pistorius killed Steenkamp. Telephone records will show that the banging sounds the neighbors heard were not

gunshots but a distressed Pistorius breaking down the toilet door with a cricket bat after realizing he had shot Steenkamp when she was in the toilet, thinking it was an intruder, Roux asserted.

Throwing doubt on the witnesses' recollection of the sequence in the early hours is crucial for Pistorius' defense after the state maintained there was a loud argument on the night he shot Steenkamp through a door in his bathroom and the screams and shouts were before a gun was fired.

The runner's defense team wants to show the screams were Pistorius calling for help after the accidental killing and before he used the bat on the door.

Pistorius was born without fibula bones because of a congenital defect and his legs were amputated when he was 11 months old. He ran on carbon-fiber blades and is a multiple Paralympic medalist. He also competed at the London Olympics but didn't win a medal.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	33	26	.559	—
Brooklyn	30	29	.508	3
New York	22	40	.355	12½
Boston	20	41	.328	14
Philadelphia	15	46	.246	19

Southeast Division

Miami	43	15	.741	—
Washington	32	29	.525	12½
Charlotte	28	33	.459	16½
Atlanta	26	33	.441	17½
Orlando	19	44	.302	26½

Central Division

x-Indiana	46	15	.754	—
Chicago	34	27	.557	12
Detroit	24	37	.393	22
Cleveland	24	38	.387	22½
Milwaukee	12	48	.200	33½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

San Antonio	44	16	.733	—
Houston	42	19	.689	2½
Dallas	36	26	.581	9
Memphis	34	26	.567	10
New Orleans	24	37	.393	20½

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	46	15	.754	—
Portland	42	19	.689	4
Minnesota	30	30	.500	15½
Denver	26	34	.433	19½
Utah	21	40	.344	25

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	42	20	.677	—
Golden State	38	24	.613	4
Phoenix	35	25	.583	6
Sacramento	22	39	.361	19½
L.A. Lakers	21	40	.344	20½

x-clinched playoff spot

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INTER

From Page 32

row for Sun Palace six minutes later. Lalaine Pagarao then answered back for the Women's National Team in the 10th minute trim down Sun Palace's lead, but Yu scored anew six minutes later to lift his

MP

From Page 32

the demolition with a shot in the 80th.

In other boys U18 results, Paire eked out a 2-1 triumph over Tan Holdings FC.

Ryu Tanzawa and Ethan Dickinson scored one goal apiece for Paire with the for-

IT&E

From Page 32

third quarter. Errol Peredo also contributed in the fourth-quarter comeback, making two straight baskets, while Nate Mateo scored the team's first three points in that canto.

Peredo top-scored for IT&E with his 16 points, while Christian Devero led TBK with his 26, but was held to two field goals in the fourth frame.

In the other game last Saturday, Gwap Gang downed Saipan Ice & Water, 89-76.

Four Gwap Gang players

team to a 3-1 halftime lead.

A goal from Sarah Allen in the 62nd minute moved the Women's National Team within one, again, but Yu saved the day for Sun Palace hitting the insurance in the 83rd minute.

KFAS 3, Paire 1

In the second game, Korean

Football Association on Saipan topped Paire.

Brian Lee made a pair of goals to lead KFAS to victory. Chong Koo Gil drained the other goal for KFAS, while Ajani Burrell scored for Paire.

Burrell's goal in the 42nd gave Paire its first and only taste of the lead, as Gil knot-

ted the count in the second half with his goal in the 56th. Lee then broke the tie 20 minutes later with his first goal and then logged another one in the 80th.

In the final game last Sunday, Shirley's FC shut out the Thundercats, 2-0.

Jack Phan and Kosuke Sato

registered one goal apiece in Shirley's FC's win. The two also scored in Shirley's 5-2 triumph over the Women's National Team last Feb. 25. Sato was unstoppable in last week's game, bagging four goals, while Phan added one. Pagarao recorded both goals for the Women's National Team.

the lone goal for Matansa.

Meanwhile, in the girls U15 matches at the Hopwoop Junior High School Field, Matansa and Tan Holdings engaged in a scoreless draw, while Paire and Shirley's FC booked separate wins.

Paire routed Kanoa FC, 8-1, behind the hat-tricks of Guinevere Borja and Renita Flem-

ing. Ma. Theresa Dalusong and Kalea Adrew chipped in one goal each. Natasha Quila

la logged the only goal for Kanoa,

Katrina Costales also tallied the lone goal in their game against MP United to hand Shirley's FC the victory in the opener in last Saturday's triple-header.

SATURDAY First Game

IT&E 66 – Peredo 16, De Dios 14, Barrios 12, Mateo 8, Gamboa 4, Hernandez 4, Usi 3, Park 2.

TBK 64 – C. Devero 26, I. Devero 11, Sablan 8, Mateo 7, Guiab 4, Fernandez 2, Velasco 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-24, 44-39, 58-53, 89-76.

WEDNESDAY Second Game

Gwap Gang 89 – Diaz 21, Sacramento 18, Darag 18, Fitial 15, Yap 8, Ito 4, Devero

21, Devero 20, Velasco 18, Sablan 10, Guiab 8, Che 7, Rio 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-15,

55-38, 69-56, 92-80.

FIVB instructor to conduct indoor v'ball course

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A longtime instructor from Féderation Internationale de Volleyball will be on Saipan next week to conduct FIVB's volleyball cooperation program referee course.

Avelino Azevedo of Portugal will be in town for the VCP referee course (indoor) that will run from March 11 to 15 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium and Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The 53-year-old visitor has been conducting course for FIVB since 2002 and holds a FIVB coaches course I, II, and III degrees and a masters degree in Sports Psychology from Minho University in Braga, Portugal. Before holding referee courses, the Porto native played for FC Porto (indoor) in 15 years, helping his team won six Portugal championships and three Cup titles.

Azevedo also officiated international games since 1991 and for 15 seasons was the referee at the World League. He was in the World League Final (Rotterdam, 2000), World Grand Prix (Reggio Calabria, 2004), and other Olympic qualification tournaments. In the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, he was one of the referees in the beach volleyball competition



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Avelino Azevedo gestures to participants of a referee course in the Maldives last Wednesday.

and was a member of the FIVB World Tour Referee Delegates from 1999 to 2005.

The veteran instructor is currently in the Maldives and is ex-

pected to arrive on Saipan this weekend. He is hoping to see more people attend the course to further develop the sport in the CNMI and provide opportu-

nities to interested individuals.

"The main goals of the FIVB Volleyball Cooperation Programme are clear, to multiply opportunities through a variety

of courses aimed at raising the level of the national federations involved, and to prepare them in thinking forward towards the future. The course is designed to educate and train new referees at the national level. It also provides national federations with a structure so that they may continue to develop their national referees. With my international experience still as an active volleyball referee, I will try to clear all the doubts about the volleyball rules and to explain all the participants why volleyball is one of the most successful and popular competitive and recreational sports in the world," Azevedo said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

The FIVB instructor also



The Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday sessions of the course will run from 4pm to 8pm at MHS, while Saturday will be a whole day affair with the 8am to 12pm theory session set at MHS and the practical part from 1pm to 5pm scheduled at the Ada Gym.

New batting, pitching leaders in Major division

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball League has new batting and pitching pacesetters in the Comets I's Francisco Frederick and Laolao Bay's Justin Celis.

Frederick recorded a batting average of .714 after last March 2's matches, as he went 10-for-14 at the plate. He was the lone batter to post a batting average of at least .700 and he booted out two-time leader Philip Kapileo of IT&E from the top spot. Kapileo, who was 10-for-18 after last weekend's games for a batting average of .555, dropped to a tie for fifth to eighth place with the Falcons' Angel Iguel (10-for-18), IP&E's Tyrese Camacho (11-for-20), and teammate Spencer Dickison (10-for-18).

The Falcons' Aven Evangelista (10-for-16) moved up to second with his .625, followed by teammate Justin Cangco (.578) at third and McDonald's Sun Joon Tenorio (.562) at fourth place.

Completing the batting leaderboard, which was based on 13 or more times at bat, were Comets I's Clarence Cabrera (.538), the Braves' Joe Tudela (.526) and Robin Sablan (.500), McDonald's Austin Sanchez (.500), and Celis (.500).

He may have been in the last



A Laolao Bay pitcher delivers pitch to the IP&E Rockies during an earlier game in the Major division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last month at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



spot in the Top 15 in the batting race, but Celis is lording it over in the pitching contest. In 13 innings, he gave up only

three runs for an ERA of 1.84. The Laolao Bay pitcher is ahead of JPO Enforcers' Kenneth Kaipat (2.82), former leader and last week's second-ranked Tyrese Camacho of IP&E (3.23), the Red Sox's Jade Reyes (7.50), and IT&E's Spencer Dickison (8.00). Last week's pacesetter Max Pangelinan of the Falcons

did not make it to the Top 5, which was based on 13 innings or more pitched.

In other categories in the Major division, Dickinson still leads in the strikeouts with his 38, four more than Camacho's, while Celis has 27 so far. Kyle Kapileo and Tudela are tied in most doubles with four, while there were also ties in RBIs with four players having 10 each and in triples with five players getting two apiece so far. In the runs, IP&E's Dai Podziewski is alone at the top with 18, while Thomas Agluto also has the solo lead in

home runs with his three.

Meanwhile, in the pitching races in other divisions, the JPO Enforcers' Kier Ada is ahead of four others in the Junior League with his 0.83 ERA; the Red Sox's Jhace Palacios is on top of the Senior League with his 0.50, and the Braves' Ricky Joe Rengual paces the Big League with his 0.50.

Agda also has the most strikeouts so far with 27, while the Jets' Nathan Camacho has earned 20 in the Senior League, and the Fielders' Jose Lizama has recorded 24 in the Big League.

Agda also has the most strike-

Flores shot a net 67 during the February qualifying tournament early last month on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort and his score was unbeaten during the club's Feb. 23 competition, also at the Kagman course.

Manny Mangarero came up three shots short of overtaking Flores, as the former carded a net 69 in the second tournament for February. Other RGA members who joined the February competitions were Dave Apang (70), Jordan Kosam (72), Loui Tilipao (73), Tony Benavente (73), Nick Guerero (76), Uly Kapileo (78),



With the win, Flores now qualifies for the RGA Ace of the Aces, which will be held in December. Flores joins Nakamura, who won the January Ace plum.

Meanwhile, Mangarero won the closest to the pin contest on hole No. 7, as he birdied the par-4 hole.

In related news, RGA will have its March qualifying tournament this Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf Links. Showtime is at 11am, while tee off is at 12pm. For more information, contact Mangarero at 285-2610 or Tom Tebute at 483-2589. (*Saipan Tribune*)

acknowledged that CNMI volleyball has yet to level up with other FIVB members as far as international competition is concerned, through holding various courses and getting more people involve, he believes progress will happen.

"From the information I've collected, Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Federation has a very active, positive national federation and is focused on a very junior development. The level of volleyball is still not good enough for international competitions, but they are very enthusiastic in everything they do, so progress will naturally happen. Most of the national program is reliant of volunteers, but there is a group of committed administration and coaches who are just amazing with their determination, specially their president Laurie Peterka," Azevedo said.

As for the course he will be conducting, Azevedo said it will widen the participants knowledge about the sport.

"The participants will be able to gain a better understanding of the highly technical nature of refereeing volleyball and throughout the week they will be challenged and grow in the different refereeing areas. Learning systems will be implemented to ensure that they are able to continue to grow their abilities after the course has ended. Volleyball could have a very positive impact on the local community by offering a pathway to further education in the form of life skills and college education opportunities," he said.

The Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday sessions of the course will run from 4pm to 8pm at MHS, while Saturday will be a whole day affair with the 8am to 12pm theory session set at MHS and the practical part from 1pm to 5pm scheduled at the Ada Gym.

Flores takes RGA February Ace

Sonny Flores clinched the Refaluwasch Golfers Association's February Ace of the Month title.

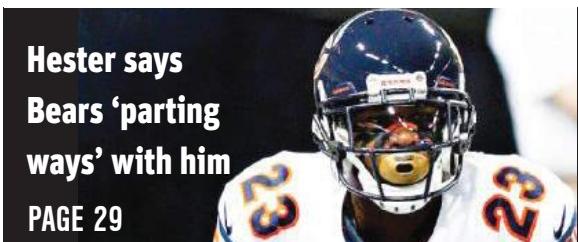
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Blazers rout Hawks
102-78; Korver's
streak ends
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Saipan Tribune Sports



Hester says
Bears 'parting
ways' with him
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Inter Godfather's shuts out Kanoa



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Inter Godfather's drew goals from three different players to blank Kanoa FC, 3-0, as the spring season games in the 2014 M-League continued last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Inter drilled back-to-back goals in a span of two minutes with Peter Loken scoring in the 13th minute and Arkie Reusora also finding the back of the net in the 15th. Masatoshi Otsuka was the third Inter Godfather's player to break into the scoreboard with his goal in the 34th, lifting the team to a good lead at the break.

The younger crew of Kanoa FC never threatened a comeback in the second half, as it struggled against the tough defense of the more experienced

and heftier Inter Godfather's players.

Sun Palace 4, Women's National Team 2

In the first game last Sunday, Sun Palace defeated the CNMI Women's National Team.

Qing Long Yu towed Sun Palace to victory with his hat-trick, while Heng Guo Piao contributed one goal.

Yu got his first goal right in the second minute of the match, while Piao made it two in a

See 5 INTER on Page 30

IT&E edges TBK Mechanics in MDX Caging



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

IT&E's Nate Mateo loses the ball, as Docomo Pacific's Rolly Paraiso, left, and Marlon Sison challenge his drive during the third quarter of their game in the MDX caging last Wednesday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

IT&E

rallied past TBK Mechanics, 66-64, in the curtain-raiser in the 2014 MDX Amateur Radio Club Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Marlon De Dios and J.R. Barrios hit clutch baskets to lift



IT&E to a come-from-behind win. The duo combined for the team's last 8 points with Barrios hitting a triple and another field goal. De Dios also made a field goal and a split free throw that sealed it for IT&E.

IT&E stole the win despite trailing by as much as 9 points in the first half and still faced a 51-54 deficit at the end of the See IT&E on Page 30

MP United sweeps boys matches



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United went 2-0 in the boys division contest in the 2014 NMIFA Spring Youth Football League with its U15 and U18 teams recording contrasting wins at the Oleai Sports Complex Field over the weekend.

In the boys U15, Sun Joon Tenorio dropped twin goals to lift MP United to a 2-1 win over rival Paire FC last Friday. Tenorio scored his first goal right in the closing minute of the first half to put MP United on top, but not for long, as 10 minutes later Paire equalized off Ivan Seo's conversation.

The game remained in a deadlock in the next 15 minutes before Tenorio again found his



target and hit the go-ahead goal. While MP United pulled off a close win over Paire, its U18 squad had an easier time against MP United last Saturday, coasting to a 9-0 triumph.

Tanapon Unsua did the damage for MP United, firing five goals. Brian Lee chipped in two, while Jahn Joyner, and Jireh Yobech contributed one apiece. Unsua drew first blood for MP United with his goal in the 24th minute, while Joyner got into the board six minutes later.

Unsua then ended the first half with his second goal and picked up where he left off in the second half, starting the final frame with back-to-back goals. Lee had his pair in the 75th and 78, while Unsua nailed his fifth in the 77th, and Yobech completed

See MP on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United U18's Dakota Hall is under the close watch of a Japan Soccer College defender during an exhibition game last month at the Oleai Sports Complex. MP United is still undefeated in the U18 division of the NMIFA youth league, following a 9-0 win over Matansa FC last Saturday.